

The Star

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By Hamdan Al Hajj and Raed Al Abed
Special to The Star

PRIME MINISTER Abdel Karim Kabariti
defended his government's recent crack-
down against Hamas activists during
Wednesday's Lower House session. He
said the government was committed to the
security of the country which could not be
compromised and that all detainees will be
dealt with in accordance to the law.

Mr Kabariti was responding to an attack
by IAF deputy Abdallah Akaileh who
accused the government of being dragged
into a confrontation with its own citizens
over the peace process. The recent deten-
tion of a number of Islamist activists in
Jordan has been confirmed by Prime Min-
ister Abdel Karim Kabariti in his meeting
with the Lower House's Foreign Relations
Committee a day earlier. But Kabariti em-
phasized that those cleared of charges will
be released.

Mr Kabariti also denied that the recent
anti-terrorist meeting held in Egypt had se-
cret clauses.

Islamist deputy Dr Bassam Umoush
confirmed the detentions. But while reiterat-
ing the Prime Minister's statement on the
legal rights of the detainees, he emphasized
his objection to the detentions. He added
that Hamas does not exist in Jordan as
an organization, though there are only
three Jordanian citizens who represent Ha-
mas in Jordan.

In his meeting with members of the

Lower House
Tuesday,
the Prime
Minister
said Jordan
has been ex-
posed to 36
terrorist ac-
tions aimed
at several
officials, pub-
lic figures,
and institu-
tions during
the last six
months. How-
ever, Kabariti
did not allude
to the states
which stood
behind them.
But he ex-
plained that
such plots
were meant
to undermine
Jordan's se-
curity and
stability. He
added that
such issues
could not be
tolerated and
that no one
was above
the law. The
meeting was
attended by
Lower House
Speaker Sa-
ad Hayel Sour
and a number
of cabinet min-
isters.

Islamist deputy Dr Theib Abdallah, who
is also head of the Human Rights Commit-
tee in Lower House, told *The Star* that the
arrests were limited in number and did not
exceed "20 persons, five of them were re-
leased, and the rest will be released short-
ly."

"They were arrested on suspicion of

their ties to illegal organizations. But till
now no evidence was presented against
them," Abdallah said. He said that "the re-
cent anti-terrorist summit in Egypt may
have prompted the government to take
such precautionary measures."

He quoted security sources as saying
that three of those arrested were carrying
explosive materials and weapons and were
trying to cross into the occupied terri-
tories. "They will be sent to court within two
days."

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Jordan's political, economic
and cultural weekly

AMMAN, 21-28 MARCH, 1996. VOLUME 6, NUMBER 46, 350 fils

Kabariti averts showdown with Islamists over recent detentions



Lower House Tuesday, the Prime Minister said Jordan has been exposed to 36 terrorist actions aimed at several officials, public figures, and institutions during the last six months. However, Kabariti did not allude to the states which stood behind them. But he explained that such plots were meant to undermine Jordan's security and stability. He added that such issues could not be tolerated and that no one was above the law. The meeting was attended by Lower House Speaker Saad Hayel Sour and a number of cabinet ministers.

An official at the Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) in Amman expressed his concern over the latest arrests and confirmed that the organization had received some complaints but that the AOHR had no specific numbers of those arrested. "These arrests are unacceptable. This will raise doubts over the liberalism of the Kabariti government," said Labih Kamhawi, president of the AOHR.

Observers believe Mr Kabariti's meeting with the deputies was aimed at watering down any strong reaction from Parliament, especially the Islamic bloc, against the latest arrests. But they added that the latest arrests will create tension between the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and the government, especially if hunting down Muslim activists becomes a state policy.

A source told *The Star* that the coming days will reveal a number of surprising developments. He said Israel is negotiating with Jordan the possibility of deporting alleged Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists from the occupied territories to Jordan, especially those who hold Jordanian passports. According to the same source the past two days witnessed such discussions between a senior Israeli defense official and a top Jordanian military personnel.

Hamas' representative in Amman, Mr Mohamad Nazal, left Jordan for Syria two weeks ago. The two other Jordanians with Hamas connections, Ibrahim Ghousheh and Enad Al Alami, were ordered by the

authorities to inform the police of their whereabouts every 10 hours. These measures came for two reasons; according to the source, one for their own protection and the other to limit their activities including giving press statements.

Hamas and other Palestinian opposition factions have a strong base in most Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan. Their representatives control most council seats in these camps. The local authorities have reportedly arrested supporters of these factions, which include the banned Fatah Al Intifada, in the past years, but late last year many of them were released. Most of these factions are opening offices in Amman under the guise of research centers. Their activities are limited to propaganda through peaceful means.

On the other hand, the Prime Minister did not exclude a possible Israeli offensive in south Lebanon against Hizbullah activists. But he reiterated Jordan's unchangeable opposition to such military operations in harmony with its domestic, Arab and regional

polices. Kabariti explained that Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations are on the right course and are being gradually restored. Kabariti added that healthy Arab relations have to be established on mutual respect and the non-interference in the internal affairs of others.

As for the issue of Iraq, Mr Kabariti said that Jordan will never be a bridge for any aggression against Iraq and that the fighters that Jordan is scheduled to obtain will not be directed against Iraq. He added that Jordanian pilots will not be part of the surveillance flights over Iraqi territories.

Exclusive!
Dr Majali talks
about the peace
process and his
record as prime
minister.
See page 3

World Tourism Conference in Amman

Tourism for sustainable development

By Harry Pullens
Special to The Star

FRESH HOPES and optimism have surged in tourism circles as the World Tourism Organization held a two-day unprecedented meeting in Amman.

Participants at the seminar which included representatives from over 13 different countries in the region, and other countries and experts with vast experience in tourism industry discussed the role of tourism in achieving a sustainable development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Over the years, despite the region's tourism industry tremendous potential, it has greatly suffered as a result of past of hostility. But with the recent peace initiatives, and peace treaties signed, tourism has been supported by regional trade that is expected to be one



Minister of Tourism, Dr Saleh Irsheidat (left), Secretary-General of WTO, Mr Antonio Savignac

of the most vibrant industries in the future. Jordan, though often described as the crossroads of the Middle East because of its location which strategically makes it a natural tourist center, has not been able to reap the potentials of tourism.

The Minister of Tourism, Saleh Irsheidat told the conference: "As a result of the peace treaty signed between Jordan and Israel and the general peace atmosphere prevailing in the region, the Middle East area is witnessing unprecedented growth rates in the number of arrivals and tourism receipts."

The participants who called for the elimination of regional tourism, also discussed international travel markets, future expansion of the regional tourism industry and

ways to attract investment tourism projects in the region. Mr Antonio Savignac, secretary general of World Tourism Organization (WTO) stressed the need for both regional and international coordination to achieve sustainable growth and development.

Mr Savignac told *The Star* that the WTO meeting in Jordan is very significant. "It probably could not have been organized six or seven years ago." Holding this meeting here and bringing together many experts with different countries' experience to discuss, is one of the ways we can help to promote tourism in the region he added.

The Madrid-based WTO, which has 135 nation members is an executing agency for the

Continued on page 2

After the sentencing, Shbeilat's case becomes center of legal debate

AMMAN (Star)—The State Security Court's three-year sentence of Mr Leith Shbeilat, president of the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) on Sunday, came few days before official registration for candidates running for the empty parliamentary seat in the Balqa Governorate was due to begin.

The by-election will be held on 15 April. Mr Shbeilat had announced earlier his intention to run for the post. The concurrence of the two events has led to a controversial legal debate among lawyers.

A number of legal questions are in need of answers. Can Shbeilat stand for Parliament now that he was convicted? How does his right to an appeal affect the outcome of his bid?

And is his case considered a political or a criminal one? Article 18 of the electoral law states that "a candidate standing for Parliament should not have been sentenced for a period of more than one year for a non-political crime, and for which he has not been pardoned."

Legal experts explain that a court's decision is only valid when all channels of appeal have been

exhausted. In Shbeilat's case the court's verdict is not final or decisive.

His sentence is subject to appeal within a period of 30 days and Shbeilat's army of defense committee have already announced their intention to take the case to the Court of Cassation. According to legal experts, Shbeilat's lawyers may opt to delay their official request for an appeal until the last week of the 30-day grace period allowed by law. This, they add, should deny prosecution the opportunity to get a final verdict from the Court of Cassation before the closing day of the contestation period for the Balqa elections.

On the other hand, if Shbeilat's candidacy is to be contested his offense must not be classified as a political one. But is Shbeilat's offence, mainly slandering the King, a political one?

Lawyer Mohammed Subeithi states that "constitutionally and legally, a political crime, whatever the sentence, does not contradict with

Continued on page 3

By William Drozdiak
LA TIMES-WASHINGTON POST
News Service

PARIS—American pop star Michael Jackson and Saudi tycoon Prince Waheed bin Talal announced Tuesday the launching of a mammoth show-business venture designed to promote "family values" throughout the world.

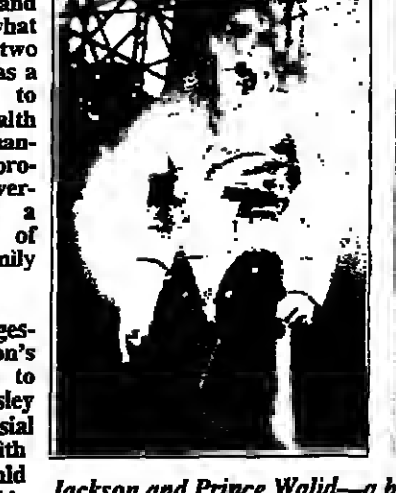
The two friends, who began planning their mega-project when they met 18 months ago at the Euro Disneyland theme park outside Paris, told a news conference that they intend to develop films, concerts, theme parks, hotels, restaurants, television programs and comic books that would respond to a yearning for global family entertainment.

The partnership, known as Kingdom Entertainment, was described by Jackson as "a long-awaited dream come true." He said he had discovered during the course of his relationship with King Fahd's nephew—whose holdings in half a dozen countries are estimated to be worth \$10 billion—somebody who shared the same goals and strategies "for the development of a total integrated global entertainment complex."

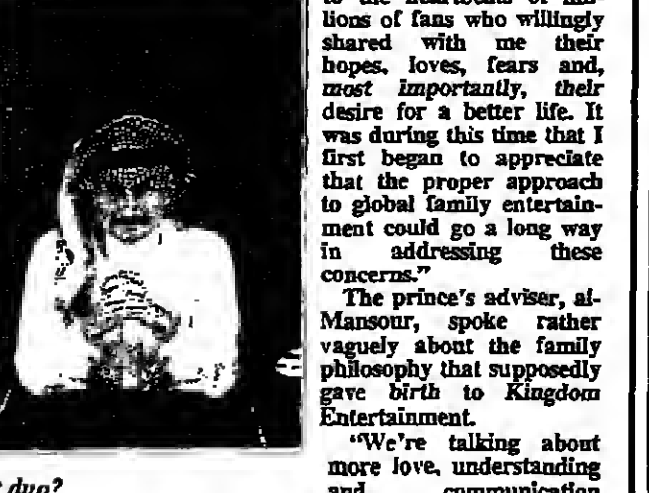
"The prince and myself will combine human and financial resources to be successful in all phases of the multimedia revolution," Jackson said, reading a short written statement. After signing some documents and posing for photographers, Jackson and the prince fled the stage and refused to answer questions.

Khalid al-Mansour, an American lawyer based in San Francisco who is close to the prince and has advised him on investments in the

Michael Jackson, Saudi tycoon launch venture designed to promote 'family values'



Jackson and Prince Waheed—a hit duo?



Jackson and Prince Waheed—a hit duo?

United States and Africa, said what brought the two men together was a determination to use their "wealth and shared humanistic vision to promote cultural diversity based on a philosophy of respect for family values."

Al-Mansour brushed off suggestions that Jackson's failed marriage to Lisa Marie Presley and controversial friendships with young boys would undermine his status as a defender of family values. He said the prince conducted "exhaustive studies" into Jackson's past and concluded he was the victim of "very unfair and very unfortunate rumors."

"The prince would never risk his reputation and character if he was not absolutely convinced that his partner was equally fit and proper and well qualified to represent family values," al-Mansour said.

Nonetheless, it was still unclear after Tuesday's publicity blitz what kind of values the reclusive 37-year-

old American singer and the 39-year-old Saudi prince were seeking to uphold. Did they believe that the ideal family should be based on monogamy, as in Western culture, or on polygamy, as in Islamic culture?

Al-Mansour said the new group was trying to develop a culture that was respectful of family values, not one that did not make any prescriptions about such choices.

In his statement, Jackson said his years of touring made him "privy

to the heartbeats of millions of fans who willingly shared with me their hopes, loves, fears and, most importantly, their desire for a better life. It was during this time that I first began to appreciate that the proper approach to global family entertainment could go a long way in addressing these concerns."

The prince's adviser, al-Mansour, spoke rather vaguely about the family philosophy that supposedly gave birth to Kingdom Entertainment.

"We're talking about more love, understanding and communication between parents and their children. We want to find useful ways to channel the energy of children. If they can learn Michael Jackson's lyrics by heart, why can't they also be taught to learn science with the same enthusiasm?"

But if the message remains to be fully formulated, there is no doubt that the means at the disposal of this unlikely duo are formidable.

Besides his singing talent, Jackson has proved to be a shrewd businessman and a marketing genius.

Continued on page 3



● LAS VEGAS, NEVADA: Mike Tyson connects with a blow to the head of Frank Bruno to win the World Boxing Council Championship with a TKO in the 3rd round at the MGM Grand Hotel March 16 in Las Vegas. UPI Photo.

JORDAN WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Awni Abu Ghosh

Prince Hassan celebrates 49th birthday

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent celebrated his 49th birthday yesterday. Prince Hassan was born in Amman on 20 March 1947. In 1965 he was named as Crown Prince by His Majesty King Hussein.

An Oxford educated scholar, Prince Hassan is very active in public life. Tirelessly working on the domestic and international fronts, the Prince has particular interest in advancing peace, democracy, human rights and inter-faith dialogue between the great religions. He was the force behind the opening of the Royal Institute of Inter-faith Dialogue in 1994.

Prince Hassan is very active in the Middle East peace process, believing that peace is fundamental to an economically vibrant region.

An intellectual, Prince Hassan has written several books on the Palestinian problem and inter-faith, a subject that is dear to his heart.

Prince Hassan is married to HRH Princess Sarvath and has three daughters: HRH Princesses Rahma, Sumaya, and Badiah and one son, HRH Prince Rashid.

On his birthday, Prince Hassan was active as usual, and receiving dignitaries as well. He also visited the PNA Minister of Information Elias Freij who was recovering from a lung infection in one of Amman's hospitals.



into the appeal. The point is whether the Cassation Court's decision would help to define Shbeilat's charge, especially if the prisoner won the elections! Or whether the three-year term in Jweidh Correction and Rehabilitation Centre would really curtail, shorten, and prune Shbeilat's tongue!

Fix your private car for 30 April

The Jordan-Israel accord on transport will take effect on 1 April. Traffic between the two countries will include buses, cars, and tourist vehicles.

General Manager of the Parto Corp. and head of the Jordanian side in the joint committee Dr Dureid Mahasneh, said that owing to the temporary lack of preparation of the Sheikh Hussein Bridge, public transport between the two countries will be diverted through Agaba-Eilat, and Eilat-Wadi Araba crossings.

As the time of the opening coincides with seasonal vacations in Israel, around 100,000 Israeli tourists and visitors are expected to arrive in Jordan. Mahasneh added that private cars on both sides will be allowed to cross the borders by the end of April. He also said that as of 5 May, public buses will have fixed schedules in both countries. In fact, the Jordanian side has already established a special bus transport company for this purpose, but the public transport company

will be going into operation first.

The Jordanian and Israeli sides agreed to extend their normal daily working hours; the crossings will be closed at 10 pm on weekdays and 8 pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

Rimawi: not guilty

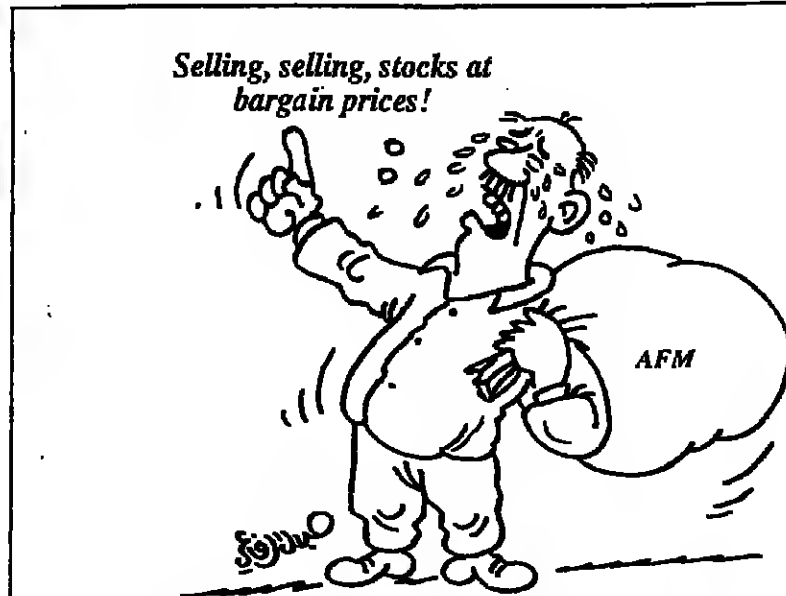
The Criminal Court ruled earlier this week that Fahad Al Rimawi, Al Majid's Chief editor is not guilty of the charge of harming Jordan's bilateral relations with Bahrain.



Al Rimawi

The Chief Judge, Mr Jihad Al Khasasneh said the court has proved that the published article was not written by the defendant, and its publication did no harm to Jordan's relations with Bahrain. He added that doubting writers' honesty leads to curtailing freedom.

The court's decision also stated that the attributed deed is not a crime. It is only an article by a Bahraini citizen who called upon his country's government to end the services of the British officer Ian Henderson as the head of Bahraini



Jalal Rifai/Dustour

Kabariti's commitment to professional associations

Kabariti's meeting this week with the Council of professional trade unions is seen as the first step in keeping the promise he gave to the Lower House.

The reports published on the meeting underlined the Prime Minister's commitment to support these associations and to enable them to better serve the country and strengthen their role. The Prime Minister also reiterated the Government's intention to tighten relations with the trade unions through responsible dialogue, with a view to reaching the proper formula that enables them to take up their tasks in full.



are well-known as a powerful movement that has been playing an effective role in the socio-economic and political life of the people. Recently, they served a hard blow to attempts of normalization with Israel. If the Prime Minister means to assist the trade unions in fostering their current programs, then he will be fighting against himself. But if by the incorporation in his cabinet of one of the council's members, and the imprisonment of another, the Prime Minister aims at the reshaping of the trade union movement into a new form, then it is the movement itself which will have to give the final word!

country.

Lecture at American Center

Mr Graham Fuller, a senior political scientist at the RAND Corporation in Washington will present a lecture on the "Geopolitics of Islam" at the American Center Auditorium of the US Embassy in Amman. Monday, 25 March, at 6 pm.

Amman. Monday, 25 March, at 6 pm.

Mr Fuller is a specialist in Russian and Middle Eastern Studies. He spent most of his 20 year career of foreign services in the Middle East. Between 1982-1986, Fuller was appointed National Intelligence Office for near East and South Asia at the CIA.

New Jordanian ambassador to Israel

The new Jordanian ambassador to Israel, Mr Omar Al Rifai has presented his credentials to Israeli President Ezer Weizman.

Mr Rifai is the second Jordanian ambassador to Israel in almost half a year of diplomatic relations between the two countries. He was preceded by Dr Marwan Muasher, who was called back to the post of Minister of Information in the Kabariti cabinet.



Jordan's F 16 and Iraq: who should we believe?

Minister of Information Dr Marwan Muasher denied that the US-made F16 would be used in war against Iraq, said Al Ahli Weekly. He added that the operations of these war planes will be confined to surveillance missions in southern Iraq in compliance with UN resolutions.

On the other hand, Al Ahli said that statements of US administration officials show that the US agreed to supply Jordan with 34 F16 war planes in line with US



Muasher

security and economic interests. It went on to say that the US Defense Secretary William Perry stated that the \$200 million fighters granted to Jordan are incompatible with the huge economic and political interests and benefits which the US would gain from such a deal.

Perry explained that Jordanian pilots will operate these planes in surveillance of the NATO-marked space area in southern Iraq, and in checking the movement of Iraqi infantry and air force activities in that region. Who do we believe then, the supplier of war mongering machines, or the nice-looking

information minister?

Tourism for sustainable development

Continued from page 1

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) which aims at linking nations organisations and studying general problems facing the tourism industry. It also helps to facilitate and improve travel between member states as well as helping these countries to develop tourism programs and marketing tourist attractions.

The WTO 1996-97 program of work presented at the seminar, included tourism development assistance plans to be financed by the United Nations Development Program which aimed at promoting diverse tourism activities that are new to many countries, such as Jordan.

The minister, who pointed out that Jordan witnessed unparalleled growth in tourism

said, "that the tourism potential of the region could be further enhanced and developed through closer regional co-ordination and cooperation in areas such as planning, marketing, environment protection, investment, and human resource developments."

He maintained that for the first time in 1995 over a million tourists visited Jordan and

international tourism receipts reached \$723 million.

Also attending the meeting was Geoffrey Lipman, the president of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). He strongly supported the establishment of a Middle East Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association (MEMTTA) which he believes will be an invaluable body for regional tourism development, coordination and cooperation. This body was formed during the Amman last October MENA conference to serve as an instrument for the integration of the region into global tourism networks; to also help to facilitate public/private partnership in

the tourism industry.

To promote a sustainable regional development Lipman believes it is necessary to encourage many factors which include trade liberalisation, deregulation of telecommunications, promotion of information technology and an encouragement of product quality improvement for international competitiveness.

Nicolas Fattouche, Lebanese tourism minister who was also head of the MENA session at the WTO stressed the need for the development infrastructure and human resources.

Participants also called for the need for the preservation of the environment in the expected upcoming stage of

mass tourism.

Many believe "sustainable development means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

"Sustainable development requires the integration of environmental, social and economic objectives" says one participant.

The minister of tourism who also expressed concern told the session "that the country cannot promote tourism at the expense of the environment".

In the concluding session of the meeting, Edward Inskeep, the WTO consultant and rapporteur summed the seminar's recommendations which

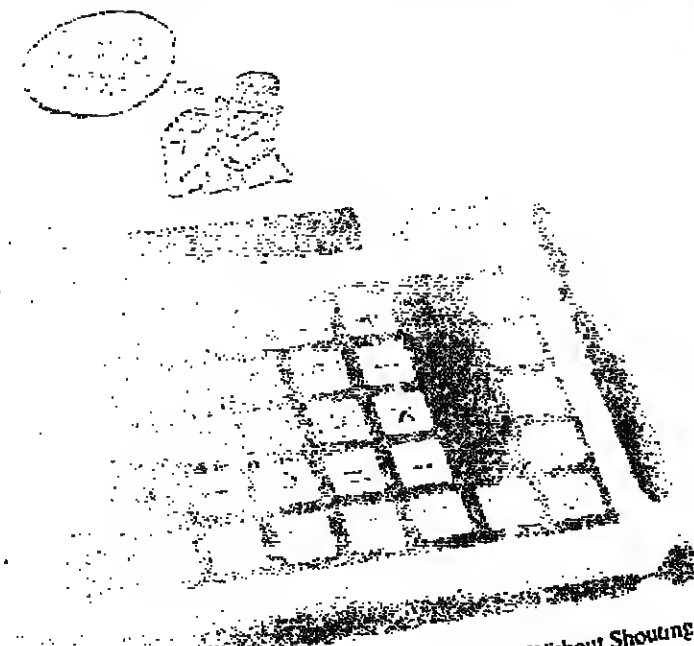
included a call for the maximal use of the region's natural, historical, cultural and religious tourism sites; the mobilization of technology and human resources within the region; community involvement and development in tourism.

Taking advantage of the World Bank services and using modern technology together with public/private partnership will be of an immense value, he said.

Many of the participants had the opportunity to visit first time some of the country's most amazing tourist attractions, which included Petra, Roman ruin of Jerash and Madaba.

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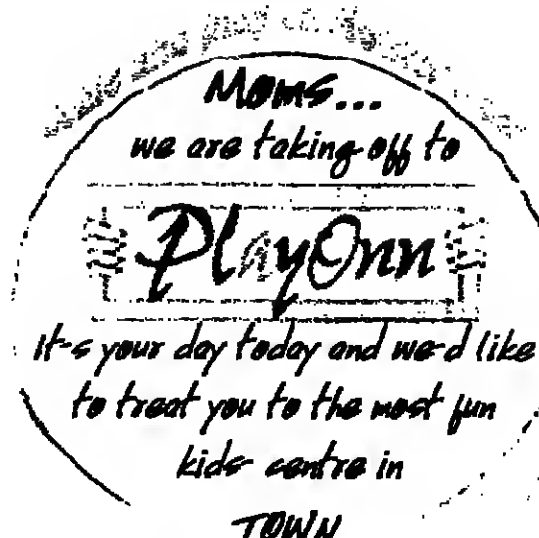


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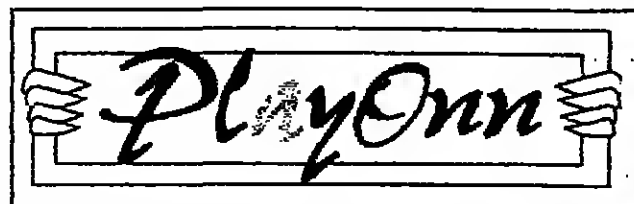
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Play Onn is a two floor fun centre for kids located at Um Uthaina. It was officially opened last Friday 15 March to welcome kids of all ages. The first floor of Play Onn has two mazes, where children can climb, crawl and slide into a pool of colourful balls. There are also four kiddie rides for the younger children to enjoy. The second floor has the most popular animated theatre show which was brought straight

from the US to Jordan. It develops children's imagination. The Karaoke gives them a chance to be in close contact with the theatre. What's fun is that children in this floor can enjoy the show while having their Pizza. The second floor has different video games such as the mini bowling and basket ball in addition to many other games. It's a worth while visit!

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ARCH 1996
Honorary co...
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By Hamdan Al Halli
JORDANIAN PAPERS
By Marwan Al Asmar
Normalization,
Well maybe!
AT LAST the Government
has won or so it would
seem. With the appoint-
ment of two ministers, Dr.
Kamal Nasser, former
leader of the Lawyers
Association and Deputy
Mustapha Shneikat, the
tables have been turned.
No longer can the move-
ment against normalization
with Israel be seen as
solid. After all, these two
members of the govern-
ment used to be rock hard
supporters of anti-
normalization.
Now, apparently, the
rock has miraculously
turned into mold. They
would have to support and
implement everything they
rejected previously. But
how can a 180 degree turn-
around be made overnight?
But that's not all. Split-
ting at the seams might be
too mild a phrase to
describe what is happening
to the anti-normalization
movement at the present
time.
The once 100 per cent
solid, no nonsense move-
ment had the first after-
shocks of the Kabariti
Government when it held
its annual conference last
week. Rather than present-
ing a strong stand, the first
party to break from the
ranks was the Democratic
Unity Party (DUP) to
which Dr Shneikat
belongs.
The DUP felt angry
when it was asked to fire
Shneikat to preserve the
Movement. How can this
be, retorted the party lead-
ership? The conference
undermines our indepen-
dence they argued and
quickly left the ball.
But this is exactly what
the Government wanted.
The breakaway of the
DUP is a very serious step.
For it signals broad cracks
in a movement that is
already beset by ideologi-
cal squabbles and the lack
of a sense of direction.
Maybe it is not the end of
the world for the rest of
the 6 party opposition that
make up the committee in
favor of anti-
normalization, but it must
be seen as a great blow for
moment.
What is more sobering
is that normalization has
become an actual fact
since the signing of the
Jordan-Israeli peace treaty.
The parties on the anti-
normalization committee
have not put up a show.
Indeed they have been
meek in their approach.
Nobody would have taken
any notice of their confer-
ence, if the breakaway
hadn't occurred.
If the state of
affairs continues, the
movement will likely
fizzle out. This is what
the Government wanted by
the appointment of the two
anti-normalizers. And they
sure did take the bait.

Jackson, Saudi
venture design
family value

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Honorary consul under investigation for selling babies

By Hamdan Al Hajj

THE HONORARY consul of Sri Lanka in Jordan was still in intensive care at a hospital in Amman three days after he was called for interrogation by the general prosecutor for allegedly selling babies born to Sri Lankan maids in Jordan to wealthy European families seeking child adoption. Two Dutch couple were detained at Amman airport this week when immigration officials discovered they held false papers of a five-month-old baby in their custody. The couple apparently pointed the finger to a Jordanian businessman who is also the honorary consul of Sri Lanka in Jordan.

The businessman has not been charged yet and he is still under interrogation. But sources said that a Sri Lankan woman, married to a Jordanian and working for the consulate, was also under investigation for her alleged involvement in illegal child sale. The hospitalized honorary consul is kept under strict security guard.

Unconfirmed reports speak of Sri Lankan house maids delivering illegitimate babies in Jordan on the basis of deals reached with certain European families to adopt children in return of sizable amounts of money.

A judicial source in Amman confirmed that the Dutch couple had admitted to adopting the baby in Jordan. The couple allegedly paid \$8000 for a legal adoption of the baby. They were later allowed to leave the country, but without the baby.

The honorary consul was reported to have collapsed and taken to hospital after being confronted with the charges by the police. Amman Prosecutor General Mr M'ammoun Menezil is still waiting for him to recover so that he could resume the interrogation.

So far, the number of babies that have been sold in this manner is not known. However, initial investigation has led the police to suspect the Jordanian businessman, a Sri Lankan woman who worked for him and staff employed by a services company owned by the honorary consul.

Unconfirmed reports say the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was tipped some time ago by the Sri Lankan government. But apparently no action was taken until the Dutch couple were caught at the airport this week.

Police suspect that pregnant Sri Lankan maids were sheltered at service company premises until they delivered. It is not yet clear how contacts with Europeans seeking to adopt the babies were made or how the adoption papers were prepared legally.

The Ministry of Interior estimates the number of the Sri Lankan maids working in Jordan at 20,000. It should also be noted that an honorary consul enjoys no diplomatic immunity. When the consulate was searched by the police, dozens of official forms, stamps, family documents, and blank passports were found.

Michael Jackson, Saudi tycoon launch venture designed to promote 'family values'

Continued from page 1

He has sold more recordings than any artist in the history of music, and he's parlayed his \$47 million purchase of the ATV Music catalog into a billion-dollar company that has become the world's third-largest music publisher.

Waleed, whose net worth is more than twice that of his partner, also has demonstrated skills at making money. Using his clout as a member of the Saudi royal family, he created a construction company that became involved in \$20 billion worth of road, sewage, military, housing and education projects.

Later, he branched out into international investing and made a fortune through "bottom fishing" among recession-struck Western companies. "I've got one rule of thumb," he said recently. "Anything that's worth \$4 billion and costs \$1 billion—buy it."

For the prince, that strategy has paid off handsomely. He poured \$800 million into becoming the largest shareholder of Citicorp when it looked close to bankruptcy in 1991. Within three years, his holdings soared in value by 500 percent.

He has also made substantial investments in the Saks Fifth Avenue department store group, the Four Seasons and Fairmont hotel chains, and Arab Radio and Television, which broadcasts throughout the Middle East. Two years ago, he purchased 25 percent of the Euro Disneyland resort and theme park—where Jackson often likes to visit and where the two billionaires conceived their latest investment plan.

Wild Flowers of Jordan

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Former Prime Minister Dr Abdel Salam Majali knows more about the peace process than any other Jordanian official. He headed the Jordanian delegation to the Madrid peace conference in October 1991 and remained directly involved in the negotiations until he formed his first government in 1993 which completed the negotiations that culminated in the signing of the peace treaty with Israel in November 1994. In this interview, Dr Majali talks to The Star's Dr Marwan Al Asmar and Raed Al Abed about the future of the peace process, the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, the fate of Jerusalem and his own record as premier. Excerpts follow.

Much has happened in the latest few months; the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the suicide bombings in Israel and the latest summit in Egypt. Is the peace process in trouble? and How can it be put back on track?

No doubt these incidents will have an effect on peace. But we must realize that those who are against peace have an interest in the state of no peace. So I believe whether on the Israeli side, the Palestinian or the Arab sides, there are people who want to kill peace because of certain beliefs or more likely because of certain interests—because their life is built on insecurity. The last incidents I think are a joint effort between both sides of the rejectionist camp on the Israeli and the Palestinian sides.

Do you believe that Israel and Syria can reach a deal before the May general elections in Israel?

I do not think so. It was hoped last year that both sides will take the opportunity after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin—which gave clear evidence that the rightist side wanted to kill the peace—and if they (the Labor government) are really interested in peace they have to progress. I believe once the Israeli elections are out of the way, showing that the Israeli public opinion clearly supports peace, and gives a real mandate to their leaders for the coming phase, then I believe the Syrian and the Lebanese tracks will progress and come to a successful end.

What do you think will happen to the peace process if the Likud takes over in Israel?

If the Likud comes to power...it has announced, for electoral reasons, that it is going to continue the peace process. But their type of peace is different from the type of peace of the Labor. So whether the present Likud leadership will follow the same line of Yitzhak Shamir is difficult to say. Presumably there might be little change in strategy because the world is changing. I think the world cannot tolerate letting the train of peace come to a stop. I think the Americans and the Europeans—everybody wants to move forward and give economic development a chance. So I think if the Likud takes over, the world will not be on their side if they are not moving properly down the road of peace.

You headed the Jordanian observers delegation to the Palestinian elections in January. Are the Palestinians closer to realizing their dream of an independent state?

What I felt through my visit all over the Occupied Territories was that the great majority of Palestinians are for peace. The elections were an important step which showed the world that the Palestinians are civilized, democratic, and that they can elect their own representatives. Unfortunately, the last terrorist incidents tarnished that good picture. It's different from the Intifada, when it was young children with stones attacking armored cars—everybody sympathized with the Palestinians. But now blowing up innocent civilians does not get the world on your side.

Jordan has been criticized for moving too fast to normalize its relations with Israel. Do you think the majority of Jordanians support normalization?

I believe they do, but unfortunately, it is what we call the silent majority, the middle ground people, who are not left or right. Those are the people who want it. I can feel that from the daily movement across the bridges—Jordanians crossing to the other side and Israelis coming here. I think this is enough of a demonstration. But the voices of rejection and doubt are louder. People are sometimes afraid because loud voices frighten them. I do not believe that the government has ever forced or will ever force people to normalize relations. But by the same token nobody should be allowed to force people not to normalize—I mean it is an equal deal.

Dr Abdel Salam Majali 'We should not overwrite the rewards of peace...'



Majali: There must be a solution to the issue of Jerusalem

Your government has signed the peace treaty with Israel—a treaty that Jordanians were told will bring them economic fruits and rewards. But that did not happen and Jordanians are beginning to wonder if the fruits of peace will ever be within reach. How do you respond to that?

It depends on how you measure things. If you want to build a house you must first hire an architect, give him the details, then see what he is doing and then agree or argue with him until you finish the design and then you must look for a contractor and then build the house...it takes years

Jordan has clearly taken steps to distance itself from the Iraqi regime. The present Government is even being described as anti-Saddam. Should Jordan interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq and how do you see the future of these relations within the present context?

I believe His Majesty was very clear that our worry in Jordan is for the Iraqi people. We do not interfere in other people's business, because we do not like anybody to interfere in ours. This is a clear principle which His Majesty has always stressed. But His Majesty is worried about the fate of the Iraqi people—that they are suffering because of the [UN] siege, and at the same time he wants the Iraqi people to enjoy democracy, pluralism and human rights. I think if one wants to describe what is interference, interference is that you are doing something that you are going inside and inciting people and so on—I do not think Jordan has done that.

You made some strong statements about the Arab and Muslim identity of Jerusalem recently. How do you

think the Jerusalem issue will be resolved once the final status negotiations begin? What should Jordan do about the issue of Jerusalem and the Palestinian refugees living in Jordan?

First of all, when Jerusalem is mentioned, no one says which Jerusalem. Is it the Jerusalem of 1900? Or 1917? Is it the Jerusalem of 1930s, 40s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s or today? Is it the Jerusalem that is holy to us? It is the Old City, where the holy mosques, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and other holy places are located. Outside these borders it is another occupied land, it is just like Ramallah, Bethlehem and other cities, that is one issue. I do not think the human brain will fail to come out with a solution for this reason—His Majesty said this; that Jerusalem, the religious area belongs to everybody. The sovereignty is to God, and not to one religion—not to the Jews or to the Muslim alone. So there must be a solution, the rest is negotiable in political terms. One has to remember that the partition of Palestine in 1947 made the Jerusalem area an international zone, so the whole world never recognized Jerusalem as belonging solely to the Jews or to us, Jerusalem is an international city in the eyes of the West. There are Arab interests as well as western interests in Jerusalem. The whole Christian world is interested, as much as the whole Muslim world and as much as the Jewish people are interested. So it is not just a matter between Israel and the Palestinians alone. So when people say Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, it could be west Jerusalem. I think there must be lots of ways to solve this issue once peace is there. There is no need to talk about giving a few meters here and a few kilometers there because Jerusalem is going to be an open city. If we are talking about the mentality of peace—then the borders will be like those between the Amman and Zerqa governorates.

Your Government was criticized for not handling domestic issues properly—the economy, unemployment and poverty—how do you respond?

First when I formed my government I was given a certain mission: I wanted to hold general elections, to restructure the economy, to continue with the peace, to sign the peace treaty, and to look after local matters, namely economic and administrative. I started with restructuring the economy and I think we were successful. Nobody can say that we handled the whole thing because there is still a lot of work to do and time is needed. Regarding internal issues, I think we started the decentralization of power, from the ministry, from the cabinet of ministers, down to the director in the field. The people and the media were busy with the peace treaty, so no one gave notice to what we have done internally and we got no credit for that. But in 19 months you can not solve the whole lot. At that time, the peace treaty was the climax of things, and it was not an easy thing to do. I had to work with the Parliament, public opinion and deal with the rejectionists.

Do you think the Kahariti government will do better?

I hope it will. But they have been in for about two months and you can not expect too much. But again unfortunately, the media and the people overburden them with so many

demands and expectations. Whatever they are going to do they will not satisfy all the people. We have become a society with too many expectations. A prime minister comes in and we want everything to be changed tomorrow. He cannot do that. Social change takes a long time. People talk of poverty and unemployment, these are wrong terms. How come a country of four million people has 300,000 new Jordanians working for it? Our unemployment figure is about 100,000 so why are these 300,000 workers still here? These foreign workers send dollars outside. I think this is more of a social problem. If

How do you see the future of refugees and displaced persons in Jordan? And what do you say about the talk of a confederation or a federation between Palestinians and Jordanians?

First we have the displaced people, those who left the West Bank and Gaza after the 1967. These people have there homes there, their families are still there. I presume once the Palestinians reach the final status negotiations, a solution would be found. It is mainly a Palestinian-Jordanian problem, and I think it is going to be solved.

Since self rule began, thousands of Palestinians, mainly in the security forces, in addition to their family members returned. More will return in time. The refugee issue must be according to international law; honoring their right to return or to be compensated. That is spelled out in the peace treaty. The Palestinian refugees in Jordan are Jordanians so they have no problem. There will be two identities, Jordanian and Palestinian and hopefully will be unified by some form of union and you can move and work wherever you want, but your identity is Palestinian and my identity is Jordanian. There will be separate elections for the Palestinian Parliament and the Jordanian Parliament, but joint elections for the Upper Parliament of the union.

Is there now talk about such confederation?

I believe it should come. I think 90 percent on both sides will vote for a union of some kind. But it should come from the people, it should come after the Palestinians reach their final status. We are so much interconnected, that we can not live without each other. But that type of relationship should be built on a proper basis, an equal basis. Now if we make a union there is the Palestinian state and there is the Jordanian Kingdom, here we have our entity and they have their entity, we together have central government to deal with defense, foreign office and economy, the King is the head of this state.

If you were a premier today where would you stand on the freedom of the press?

I believe that the journalists



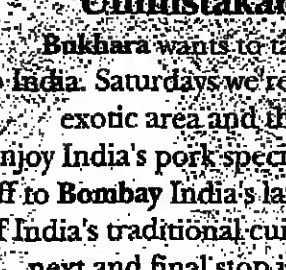
"Ninety percent on both sides will vote for a union"

Jordanians take these employment then there will be no problem of poverty. In Amman alone there are more than 30,000 foreign maids. Every maid will send home at least \$1000 a year. These maids apply to foreign workers in other sectors...That's about hundreds of millions of dollars a year that is sent by foreign workers outside the country. Don't you think that if this money remains here it will make a difference for the country?

This is not to say that I want to get rid of foreign laborers, but I want to change the way Jordanian look at work.

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should meet together and agree on their own code of honor. The press and the media are very much another authority, like the executive branch and the legislative. Now the press is self controlled while government is under Parliamentary control. Parliament can vote it out of office. But the press, you can not allow the government to control it. A code of honor has to exist which would make the press feel more responsible and would regulate it. I tried to introduce the idea of a code of honor, but unfortunately the media people did not take it seriously at the time.

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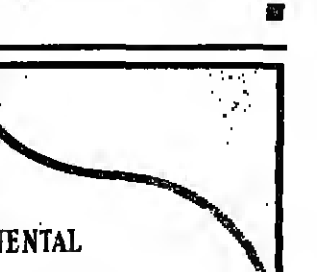
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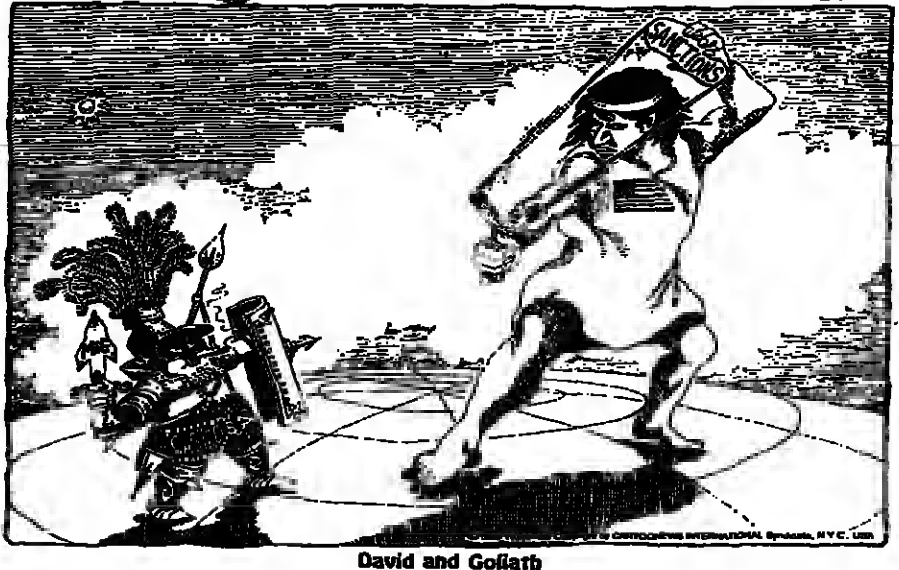


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LURIE'S WORLD



David and Goliath

Our Say...

What kind of tourism

JORDAN PARTICIPATED in this year's International Tourism Bourse (ITB) in Berlin as it does every year. The ITB is the largest annual convention of its kind where travel agents, tour operators, airlines, hotels and official bodies and other tourist professionals meet to promote the \$3.4 trillion tourism business worldwide.

And this week in Amman, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) held a two-day meeting to look into how the tourism sector can generate economic growth in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. But aren't we putting the horse before the cart? Are we all in agreement about what kind of tourism we really want?

Jordan is pinning high hopes on the tourism sector to contribute to its economic growth under peace. Basically this means mass tourism because, for officials, what counts is quantity and volume.

In recent years, the tourism sector witnessed some important developments with new hotels being built in Amman, Petra and Aqaba to accommodate the increasing number of tourists, while other investments were poured into other areas such as land and air transport, training and promotion. But these investments remain modest and most of which were generated by local private sector investors.

The same investors complain that legislation and government administration remain embarrassingly backward and wasteful. They speak of foreign investors who were chased away because of unbearable government red-tape and contradictions in legislation that affect every thing from land sale on the Dead Sea to supplying new projects with much needed basic services such as water, electricity and telephones.

But what is of concern to all is the lack of a national strategy on the future of tourism. The bulk of responsibility falls on the shoulders of the Ministry of Tourism, which lacks not only the resources to work with investors to create a modern and sustainable tourism industry, but also the vision.

The issue here is not about money, but about direction. There are alternatives to mass tourism that are worth looking into such as eco-tourism and cultural tourism.

In Jordan today, those concerned with the tourism industry are unable to create an independent and responsible forum to chart a plan of action—that much needed strategy for the future. Travel agents and tour operators complain that their voices are not being heard, while developers and other would-be investors pull all kinds of strings to get their projects through. But at what expense?

Experts, (whether in tourism, antiquity, air travel, economy, legislation and even the environment) state their own cases independently, and each pinpoints certain ailments or dangers stemming from an unplanned growth in the tourism sector.

There are those who warn that mass tourism, if we ever get to that stage, will do to Jordan's fragile environment and archaeological heritage what today is a nightmare to officials in countries like Greece, Egypt and Spain. This is why this government must issue a white paper on tourism and call upon all concerned parties in Jordan to sit together and decide where to go from here and to which destination.

Letters to the Editor

A clarification of Taiwan's stand

Dear Sir,
I wish to clarify my government's position and point of views, regarding the Chinese recent missile tests, fired into the high seas just off Taiwan, and just before Taiwan's first direct presidential elections to be held on March 23, 1996, intimidating Taiwan to drop any plan for independence. For this regard, I would like to state the following:

- The Government of the Republic of China never hesitated to pursue national reunification;
- China contravenes the spirit of the Shanghai Communiqué which was declared in 1972 between China and USA to carry out peaceful reunification between China and Taiwan;
- China has launched missiles to jeopardize the security and freedom of the high seas;
- The Taiwan Government strongly denounces the Chinese missiles maneuvers, which

threatens bilateral peace and coexistence.

Sincerely yours

Edmund Y. Lin
Representative of the Commercial Office
of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in
Amman

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The peace process

Extremism, ideology, and destructive emotions

By Carrie Nelle Moya
Star US correspondent

IN MUCH of the world, including the Middle East and Central Europe, the 40th day following the death of a loved one is significant. It marks the end of the first period of official mourning; neighbors and friends visit the departed's former home, paying respect and tribute.

Thus it was that 40 days after the assassination by the Israeli secret police of Yehiya Ayyash (known by Arabs as "The Engineer" and by Israelis as "The Bomb-maker") security was at its peak. The anniversary came and went, with nothing catastrophic occurring.

Curiously, the Israelis had forgotten another most important anniversary: on February 25, 1994, New Yorker-turned-Israeli, Dr Baruch Goldstein had entered a mosque in Hebron, legally armed as are all Israelis allowed, and randomly slaughtered 29 worshippers.

Palestinian Hamas terrorists chose this anniversary to bomb two buses in Jerusalem, determined to prevent the peace movement from going forward. The tactic worked. Hawks on both sides were jubilant, and Israeli Labor Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who had called for early elections in the belief that true peace was imminent, now is being goaded to call an all-out end to the peace talks, and return to the status quo of herding the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and Gaza Strip.

On Monday, 4 March, the world's major cable news network headlined its report by a newscaster speaking firmly of yet another bomb in Israel. Almost as an afterthought and certainly not stated so adamantly, the spokesman added that the explosion had followed a bombing raid by the Israelis in the "self-declared security zone of Southern Lebanon."

At least this was said, for usually such facts are left unreported. But as President Clinton announced, 5 March that the US is sending bomb detection devices and bomb expert technical personnel to Israel, no mention was made of any of the atrocities committed by the Israeli Air Force or the destruction of homes of suspected Hamas members.

It's an election year. Why is the tenuous peace between

the Israelis and the Palestinians being controlled more by those determined to slaughter one another than by the doves?

We all know the old saying, "All's fair in love and war." There is a basic difference between the two, however. War is won largely by deceiving, confusing and misleading the enemy, whereas love is won and sustained by trust, confidence and clarity.

Likewise, clarity is a major criterion in the basis for peace between neighbors, and especially neighbors who were former enemies. "Former enemies" indicates the war that existed between them is over.

So why are the peacemakers attempting to solidify peace in the Middle East on a foundation of ambiguity rather than clarity? Ever since UN resolution 242 was passed in 1967, all actions for peace in the Middle East have wallowed in ambiguity. The English translation of this resolution speaks of Israeli "withdrawal from territories occupied..." whereas the French reads withdrawal from "[the] territories occupied..."

Almost 30 years later, par-

ties still argue whether UN Resolution 242 calls for withdrawal from all territories taken in the 1967 war or a select few. There are other similar ambiguities to be settled. The Oslo and subsequent agreements between Israel and the Palestinians added new declarations which was interpreted by each party in such a way that each thinks it won everything but the counterpart is attempting to cheat on everything. This includes the question of Palestinian statehood, Israeli withdrawal from East Jerusalem, physical security, water, commerce, holy places...

Extremists on both sides relish in this as it provides ideological ammunition needed to fuel their destructive passions. They incense their listeners into believing the other side is denying them their rightful acquisitions. Ambiguity in dealing, in agreements, implementation, in explaining what is being done by politicians, is the fuel allowing the terrorists to commit their despicable acts, to mobilize considerable popular support for them and

to distort ideologies they espouse.

How can two people bury generations of hatred, vengeance, and grievances without clarity and sincerity? Why don't the Israeli and Palestinian leaders announce clearly what they intend to do, how much they are willing to give, and what is the minimum they will accept. If they find a common denominator, then let them make peace, adhere to it and permanently eradicate the destructive, blind, fanatical elements of terror and bloodshed.

If they do not reach agreement, then let the situation remain as it is, a position of no war, no peace, a situation where both peoples know where they stand rather than being lured into a fool's paradise of fake peace built on equivocal words and shattered daily by the TNT of doubt. True peace must be built on clarity. It should lead to friendship as is the case of former enemies France and Germany, and maybe even to love, as enjoyed between Germany and the Netherlands.

Neither friendship nor, more particularly, love can develop without sincerity and confidence. Baruch Goldstein, with his massacre of the worshippers in Hebron, and Yehiya Ayyash, with his bombs and the trained students he left after his assassination, are but two tips of the iceberg of hatred ready to sink all ships of peace, by exploiting the misconceptions growing out of the lack of clarity of the peace accords. Two men initiated a series of suicide attacks, killing a fragile bud of prospective peace and setting the scene for a new large scale round of violence or even an openly declared war.

The big powers, notably the United States and the United Nations, and all advocates of peace should immediately launch a massive campaign of sincerity to help clear the air of misunderstandings and biased support, not only for the Palestinians and Israelis.

This is the moment of truth if it is to be the era of peace. The Middle East, through three great religions, has given the world the tenants of faith and truth. The world owes these same gifts to the Middle East. And then there are the "gifts" of viable human existence in the United States, but that's another column. ■

LURIE'S WORLD



At The Grand-Dancing Competition

Jordanian economy

Shortage of capital and high consumption

The Jordanian Economy, by Dr Omar Marashdeh, Al-Jawal Co., Jordan, 1995, 170pp.

THE JORDANIAN economy is strongly dependent on the countries of the Middle East for much of its foreign exchange earnings. This is largely due to persistent shortage of capital and high per capita consumption.

About 65% of Jordan's foreign exchange earnings are directly attributable to countries of the Middle East in the form of remittances from Jordanian working in the Gulf States, aid from Arab oil exporting countries, tourism and exports. A decline in any one of these sources of foreign exchange would adversely affect the Jordanian economy. The Gulf crisis and its aftermath highlighted this dependence as thousands of migrant labor returned to Jordan and the Gulf markets closed for Jordanian products.

The crisis coupled with the sharp devaluation of the Jordanian dinar exacerbated the external debt problem and led Jordan to adopt IMF structural adjustment programs.

The decline in the economy hit the banking industry and led to reorganization of the industry through merger and liquidation of failed financial institutions and the conversion of several financial institutions into commercial and investment banks.

This book addresses the above problems and discusses the impact of foreign exchange and interest rates on the demand for money, examines the transmission of

monetary policy, studies the structure of foreign trade and the impact of tourism on the economy, and discusses the appearance of currency substitution.

This pioneering book provides a valuable insight to the Jordanian economy. It is a must for scholars of Middle Eastern and Jordanian Studies, libraries, academicians and the inquisitive minds. Its unique features include:

- Discussion of the performance and prospect of the economy
- Discussion of the New Economic Adjustment Program and Economic and Social Development Plan.
- The structure of the banking system and monetary policy in Jordan.
- Examine the impact of

foreign exchange and interest rate on money demand.

■ Examination of the transmission of monetary policy.

■ The structure of foreign trade.

■ The impact of international tourism.

■ Discussion of the appearance of currency substitution. Dr Marashdeh is a Senior Lecturer in Financial Economics at the Graduate School of Business, the University of Sydney and Director of the MBA Program at the International College, Penang, Malaysia. At the International Islamic University Malaysia.

He was an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Economics and taught at the Division of Commerce, Fairmont State College, in the US.

Dr Omar received his BA from Yarmouk University, M.A. from Western Illinois University and Ph.D. from West Virginia University.

He has published extensively in recognized regional and international journals, such as *Applied Economics*, the *Journal of Applied Business Research*, *Asia Pacific Journal of Management*, *The Middle East Business and Economic Review*, and *Banker's Journal Malaysia*. Dr. is the author of a forthcoming book *The Malaysian Financial Market*.

Dr Omar Marashdeh, sent us this review on the internet where he can be reached on omar-mar@pop.jaring. He presently resides in Malaysia. Interested buyers can contact *The Star* for his full address. ■

LURIE'S WORLD



Voting on Taiwan's Future

Middle East Beat
by
Khairi Janbek

Counter-terrorism

THE SHARM el Sheikh Summit clearly shows that the world is united in its re-evaluation of terrorism, and that there is an international will to build on the peace achieved in the Middle East.

The press reports which emerged after the Summit largely came to the conclusion that Sharm el Sheikh was designed more to preserve peace than to devise strategies to combat terrorism. Some even suggested that the venue was nothing more than a show of support to Israel, and to a lesser extent, the PNA.

This line of reasoning was re-enforced by the recent comments made by the Lebanese prime minister during his visit to Cairo. Giving a gloomy assessment of the negotiations on the Lebanese track, he ignored the terrorism issue. Perhaps the title of the Summit has been misleading to many who actually thought that the whole idea was designed for the peace builders rather than the terrorism fighters. The Syrians responded in the same manner because they are not part of the peace builders' club and even less concerned with the issue of terrorism. The accusation that they may be harboring terrorists has been balanced by the "carrot" of a bigger regional role if they sign a peace accord with Israel. In fairness, the message relayed to the Syrians have been somewhat confusing to all, including the Syrians themselves. But the prize of a future major role in the region is what sticks in their mind.

With the Libyans, one can guess that there was no need to issue an invitation, because it might have taken a long time to decipher the rhetoric of the Libyan leadership, and even longer to convince them that the Palestinians and the Israelis are the primary victims of terrorism and not "the green hill," in the "green town" overlooking the "green land."

Our Sudanese brethren are to be excused for not attending the conference, for they are heavily involved in their elections. The selection of the same people as candidates is a rather consuming process, not to mention their war in the South—an excellent shining example of pluralism and religious co-existence.

One cannot but have a few words saved for the sponsors of this unique international phenomenon. It would have been more interesting if President Clinton said something on the channeling of funds from the US to various benevolent associations which came into existence since the Afghan war. One does not in any way want to burden the President with the legacy of this war, but the US has to play a clear role and research the sources and destinations of these illicit funds, rather than issue demarches regarding civilians partaking in constitutional political activities in Jordan.

The American administration could not have been so glibly as to believe the accusations from certain PNA sources levelled at Jordan.

The EU countries have been more cautious in their responses, for they are an old hand at dealing with terrorism and realize the scale and level of enormity, of combating terrorism successfully and drying out its resources.

The Russians seem to be sticking to the old clichés long after the USSR has been relegated to a footnote in modern history books. At one point, it seemed that the argument of fighting terrorism seemed to be directed against Chechnya rather than the deaths in Israel.

As for our Egyptian brothers, we must congratulate them on the speed of preparing such a conference, and perhaps wish that they could have made some political gains out of this international gathering. This is the story of Sharm el Sheikh so far, and success is unfolding on a daily basis. ■

Business scene

■ The Urban and Rural Development Bank (URDB) capital has been increased from JD 2 million to JD 25 million. Established to finance service and productive projects on the local and district levels, the URDB will incorporate these local bodies in the bank's capital, so they will be eligible to receive their individual shares from URDB annual profits.

■ Al Quds Insurance Co. realized an installment growth of 31 percent, with a total of JD 7,279,193 in 1995 (an increase of JD 1,710,000 over the year before). The company's net profit amounted to JD 581,992 in the same period, 20 percent of which was distributed among the shareholders. The earnings of the shareholders equity at the end of 1995 were JD 3,415,721, and the company's capital was closed at JD 8,405,953.

■ The Jordanian Cooperative, is currently building a complex dairy factory in five different centers in the Kingdom. The project is financed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and costs about JD 1 million. Production is expected this year.

■ Profits of Arab Satellite Communications Corporation (Arab Sat) reached \$21 million in 1995. The Arab Sat Board of Directors advised the corporation's executive to follow the manufacturing stages of the first Arab Sat Satellite that would be launched in the middle of this year, the second Satellite in mid-1997, and the third in mid-1998.

■ The founding assembly of the Islamic Insurance Co. declared the final establishment of the company with a JD 2 million paid up capital. The IIC was registered officially in January 1996, and its capital was covered by the founders and private shareholders. Founders included: the Islamic Bank of Jordan, the Arab Insurance Co. in Egypt, and the Islamic Insurance Co. of Bahrain. The new company will operate according to Islamic Shari's rules.

■ The US donated \$207,648 for the construction of a new complex for the Baqaa Social Rehabilitation Centre. It was established in 1988 for the handicapped. It now treats around 70 people, and served by 20 volunteers.

Foreign Exchange		Wednesday, 20 March	
	Buy JD	Sell JD	
	0.7080	0.7100	
	1.0826	1.0880	
	0.4782	0.4806	
	0.5929	0.5959	
	0.1400	0.1407	
	0.6669	0.6702	
	0.4273	0.4294	
	0.0453	0.0455	

■ The EU summit clearly shows the world is united in the vision of a new era of peace and stability. There is a common will to build on the achievements in the Middle East.

■ The press reports emerged after the summit that the decision was taken to establish a peacekeeping force in the Middle East. Some even said that the summit was more than a success. It was a landmark in the history of the UN.

■ The summit was a success. It was a landmark in the history of the UN. It was a success. It was a landmark in the history of the UN.

A balance sheet of \$22.9 billion for 1995

Arab Bank strides forward

TOMORROW, FRIDAY, 22 March, the general assembly of the Arab Bank Group will meet, and listen to the annual message of the chairman of the Board of Directors and General Manager of the Arab Bank Mr. Abdul-Majeed Shoman on the financial position of the Group during 1995.

Since the presentation of the 1994 report, many changes have taken place in the world, the region, and in the areas of operation of the Group's 300 branches in the five continents. How the Arab Bank reacted, what results it achieved, and recommendations it now puts forward to the 1996 assembly are the bulk of the current financial statement that is to be considered by the shareholders.

The Arab Bank now has 11 branches in the West Bank and Gaza. It has opened two new branches in Valencia, Spain and in Cairo, Egypt. Also, the new office in Cyprus and the six new branches in Jordan testify to the success which the Arab Bank has achieved in banking

during last year.

The Bank progressed in earnings and asset growth in 1995. Its net income for that year was \$168 million, (a 19.9% increase over 1994); its total balance sheet reached a massive \$22.9 billion, with a shareholders' equity increase to \$1,267.9 million; a customers' deposit growth of 8.1%, an increase in the Group's productive assets of 5,965.9 million, and a \$6.1 billion in loan portfolio.

The Arab Bank's services to its customers can be viewed in its 48.5% liquidity availability throughout the year.

These fundamental and positive results have been realized at a time when free inter-Arab trade and capital movement is still restricted; laws that hamper



Mr. Abdul-Majeed Shoman

investments across Arab borders are not yet done away with; and the private sector is not completely freed from the control of public policies and regulations.

These achievements also materialized in a period of mergers of leading companies and acceleration of the reshaping of the banking industry in the developed countries, especially the US.

However, new challenges are expected as a result. Among others, regional financial institutions may emerge. Global and better capitalized banks may be able to outperform them by deploying their financial power and advanced technology.

Moreover, these Arab Bank achievements were also realized at a time when the banking industry was repeatedly challenged by the regulatory authorities, and by the needs and requirements of the customers. Among others, there was the pressure of these authorities to control the risk components, including the assessment of weaknesses in organizational structures, internal auditing, and the creation of a system for monitoring bank risk via asset liability management committees.

The Arab Bank has not only

adapted itself to these conditions, but also worked to use them to open new opportunities, add improvements, and move ahead.

Coupled with transparency and full disclosure, the overgrowing earning power of the Arab Bank, its low level risk, and strong financial position are highly appreciated.

For sure, the Arab Bank will continue to capitalize on the positive aspect of change and challenges, while focusing on serving its customers and the welfare of the communities it operates in.

The Arab Bank established the \$30 million Arab Palestine Investment Bank. In cooperation with the World Bank's IFC, the Arab Bank launched an electrification project in Palestine. The Bank supports the Welfare Association's educational and cultural activities in Palestine, and has donated JD 1.5 million to the Jubilee School in Amman.

Injection of new blood needed for new ACI era

AMMAN (Star)—Exports of Jordan's industry in 1995 were more than a billion dinars, a 12 percent increase over 1994. The records of the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) show that JD 460 million of that total were revenues of Jordanian industrial exports to Arab countries, compared with JD 337 million in 1994.

Jordan's industry also increased its employment last year by 30,000 workers over total employment of 120,000 in 1994, thus, it contributed to unemployment from 17 percent to 14 percent, and helped to increase the GNP from JD 4190 million in 1994 to JD 4620 million in 1995. Industrial contribution to the GNP increased by 20 percent.

The ACI, was deeply involved in economic reforms that took place in 1995. It participated in the drawing up of the present laws of labor, income, and sales taxes. It also prepared studies on the draft laws on customs, companies, investment promotion, and health.

The industrial fair of May 1995 was a great economic success displaying great Jordanian products. It was a venue to strengthen inter-Arab economic and trade relations, and to consolidate Jordan's economic position.

The European-Jordanian partnership was another topic that Jordan's industry was deeply involved in 1995. Of particular concern was how far Jordanian industry can secure its protection in the respective negotiations, and avoid the problems of the free market, and free trade policies, and, to what extent can our trade with the Arabs be affected by this partnership.

Industry's participation in the Amman economic summit was a culmination of its activities last year. With this background, the elections for the board of directors and chairman of the ACI for 1996-2000 has just ended yesterday.

However, traditional election campaigning and heated competition among rivals are not felt this time. The absence of concrete policies among possible candidates of Jordanian industrialists can be a reason, but their similar views on the current situation of industry, and on its prospects pose the need for an innovative management in this vital sector.

The incomplete list of candidates under the umbrella of the present ACI chairman Mr. Khalid Abu Hassan clearly indicates the tendency for the injection of the chamber with new blood. At the same time it maintains the potential of the

successful administration of the last period. Moreover, Abu Hassan's well-thought delay of announcing his list to the board and his reelection can be seen as a reflection on the large number of new candidates from different industrial branches.

The decision of the "Industrial cooperation bloc" to present a seven-member list to the 12-member board, under the slogan "of innovation, and facing the challenges of the new era," implies two main objectives: to obtain a 50% plus 1 vote on the board, and to develop a more quality efficiency.

The question whether this could have motivated competition in the election campaign was too late.

The decision on the subject may lead to the recently adjusted internal rules of the chamber. The amendments included, the increase in membership fees from JD 20 to JD 100 per year. A factory or workshop can be registered as a full member if its machinery is worth JD 2500 or more, and if it employs 10 workers at least. Companies with a JD 100,000 or more can choose to be a full member after paying an annual membership fees of JD 100.

These amendments were made public on 2 September '95. According to Mr. Abu Hassan, no comments or objections were received by the chamber since then.

Because of this, press reports have shown that only 7% of the chamber's members are eligible to vote (around 650 voters), a ratio that is far behind the actual representation of the industry and its contribution and weight in the national economy.

A harmonious and true representative board of directors of ACI is not only the optimal goal of the chamber, but also the tact example for the other chambers around the country.

US-Israeli free trade agreement extended To West Bank, Gaza

WASHINGTON—In a bipartisan show of support, Congress approved a bill which would extend the US-Israeli Free Trade Agreement to products from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Sen. Gibbons, a Democrat (Florida) said the agreement "is supported by the Administration, the PLO and Israel because reducing tariffs in these regions would increase employment and stimulate the economy."

The pending measure would enable President Clinton to modify or eliminate tariffs on products from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and areas designated as industrial parks between the Gaza Strip and Israel and between the West Bank and Israel.

Under the agreement, goods from the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be subject to the same tariff treatment as Israeli goods under the US-Israeli Free Trade Agreement, signed on 25 April, 1985.

Industry moves at Hannover next month

ITS THAT time of the year again for the Hannover Fair in Germany. Held between 22-27 April, it is the biggest industrial fair in the world. In a display area of 300,000 square meters, this year it will attract over 6800 exhibitors and an additional 2600 from over 60 countries.

This year the themes of the fair are "Robot Technology and Automation," "Materials Handling and Logistics," and "Surface Treatment."

Pact in 18 halls, the visitor is likely to find everything that he desires. Included is the environmental and technology hall, installations and technology buildings, plant engineering and subcontracting and industrial materials.

The lighting technology hall, for example, has electric lights and lighting systems, electric lamps and systems technology and components.



MARKET WATCH

9-12 March

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
↑	5.00	↑	0.85	↑	4.69	↑	5.45
↓	4.44	↓	0.85	↓	3.13	↓	3.64
↑	1.0826	↑	0.85	↑	2.78	↑	3.64
↓	0.4782	↓	0.85	↓	2.78	↓	3.64
↑	0.5929	↑	0.85	↑	2.78	↑	3.64
↓	0.1400	↓	0.85	↓	2.78	↓	3.64
↑	0.6669	↑	0.85	↑	2.78	↑	3.64
↓	0.4273	↓	0.85	↓	2.78	↓	3.64
↑	0.0453	↑	0.85	↑	2.78	↑	3.64
↓	0.0455	↓	0.85	↓	2.78	↓	3.64

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

Economic and security impact on region

IRAQ SPENT \$190 billion in its war with Iran, that is, four times its GNP. About \$102 billion was spent on weapons. As a result, Iraq became excessively militarized. This negatively effected its balance of payment.

During its war with Iran, Iraq embarked on unnecessary development projects. With foreign debts skyrocketing, Iraq approached the Gulf states for finance under the guise of protecting them from what was seen as the Persian threat.

During the Iraq-Iran war, OPEC's policy to increase oil prices harmed the Gulf as the demand for its oil exports receded and revenues decreased. Iraq used Kuwait and UAE's increase of their oil exports as an excuse to invade Kuwait.

Estimates vary about the reconstruction cost of Iraq, but the United Arab Economic Report put the figure at \$232 billion.

The UN economic sanctions against Iraq's oil exports have aggravated the economic situation in the country: The scarcity of foodstuffs, industrial appliances, and supplies are unable to be imported.

This created inflation, price hikes, currency devaluation, increase in poverty and a sharp fall in the per capita income. The economic situation worsened as the government continued to expand its military, while refusing the UN offer of a limited oil exports.

The bombing of the oil plants in the south and north of the country was devastating. Iraq would need three years after the lifting of sanctions before its oil fields become fully operational. This is not to mention the huge cost.

However, lifting the sanctions by 1997 after the American presidential elections will most likely most likely be connected to the oil prices in world markets and the financial situation in the Gulf. It is in OPEC's interest, the Gulf, and the US that Iraqi oil doesn't flow to such markets; this is an issue that is not expected before the end of this century.

Meanwhile, Iraq still has obligations. This includes foreign debt repayments,

estimated at \$54.5 billion, the cost of rebuilding destroyed plants, import of supplies and production machinery, and the compensation which Iraq has to pay for the Gulf war.

These huge amounts will be taken from its export revenues. The introduction of a Marshall plan-like to re-build Iraq and improve the situation could be a step in the right direction.

Before the Iraqi invasion, Kuwait was the only successful country that diversified its economy through its foreign investments.

The burning of its oil wells was the most harmful blow inflicted on Kuwait. The losses incurred as a result of the halt of its oil exports were estimated at \$14 billion in 1992. However, Kuwait started to earn profits in 1994, especially as it increased its oil exports.

Saudi Arabia, had been suffering from the burden of a chronic financial deficit and a rising public debt. But owing to the sanctions imposed on Iraq, Saudi Arabia exploited its own potential. It increased its oil production from a pre-war 5.4 million barrel per day to 8 million barrel per day after the war. Saudi Arabia's additional earnings of oil exports amounted to more than \$90 billion, much more than its expenses during the war.

Jordan was most affected. Due to the blockade of Iraq, Jordan lost many export opportunities. Its GNP dropped by 25 percent in the first year after the war, and received about 350,000 returnees.

Turkey was also greatly affected as its exports to Iraq were reduced, and revenues from Iraqi oil transit tariffs were stopped.

Egypt's losses didn't exceed \$1 billion, which was basically the earning from the remittances of its workers in the Gulf.

The Gulf which used to be an effective financial power before the war now suffers many problems. No longer can this area be seen as powerful.

The Gulf war created new economic relations in the Gulf region and in favor of the US especially. America became

the number one protector for these countries security. It has benefited most from arms sales and reconstruction.

The deteriorating financial situation in the Gulf weakened the powerful role of the Gulf states in OPEC, and their position in world financial markets.

The main problem, however, is Iraq. It will be very difficult for it to restore its former economic health: It could take as long as 10 years.

The Iraqi situation will not be solved unless radical changes take place in its political and economic structures.

This should be based on three main axes: the political system: a free economic system that is open to the world; and the development of new resources besides oil, namely, agriculture and industry.

One should not forget the fact that three major issues in the Middle East are of much concern to the US. These are: Gulf oil and its free flow; normalization with Israel; and religious fundamentalism.

As for the oil, Iraq has to be separated from the Gulf region. In fact, this is what was done when Iraq's territory on the Gulf—Um Qasr—was given to Kuwait, so that Iraq can be linked from the north and, thus commercially and geographically connected with the Middle East in the future.

Normalization of relations with Israel cannot be achieved with the exclusion of Iraq from the peace process. This will help its economy to recover.

Because of its political heritage, Iraq tends to be a secular society, separating religion from politics.

Iraq should be integrated into a regional economic bloc which strengthens its economic relations with the other regional member states, and helps it to solve its problems, and generate new national resources.

This is an abridged and edited version of a paper presented by Dr. Fadel Al Chalabi to a seminar that was organized by the Arab Thought Forum in Amman, and published by the Al Muntada, last month.

Business Chronicle

The new foreign exchange law

CBI Governor, Dr. Ziad Fariz confirmed that a new law on dealings in convertible currencies will be introduced soon. Under the current state of economic reform, and plans for investment promotion, the new draft law is designed to insure that the savings and funds of Jordanian businessmen inside and outside the country, are secure.

Hence, Jordanians can operate their investment portfolios abroad in the same way as foreign investors do in Jordan.

The new law is expected to be a concrete measure within the ongoing liberalization process of foreign currencies and banking. One immediately thinks of the 14 Jordanian banks which have reoperated their 38 branches in Palestine with facilities worth JD 147 million and JD 797 million worth of deposits.

Meanwhile, Jordanians have deposits in foreign currencies in local banks worth are \$3 billion, in addition to another \$6 billion deposits abroad.

Until 15 March '95, the CBI reserves in foreign exchange were \$438 million. Hence, the stabilization of the rate of exchange of the dinar against the US dollar has led to an increase in the interest rates of the dinar, and even to a surplus of the dollar in domestic markets.

In this regard, Dr. Fariz stressed the need for increasing Jordan's exports to Palestine, and for the acceleration of the privatization process. While advocating the correctness of the figures of the basic balance of payment, the reduction of the 1995 commercial deficit, and the healthy conditions of tourism, industry, and trade, Fariz noted that people in general are still affected by the 1989 monetary policy, so greater efforts should be exerted to restore their confidence.

On another level, the Governor acknowledged that the CBI increased the interest rates of the dinar because it was abandoned in favour of the US dollar. So, those who were skeptical of the dinar's stability have to pay for their doubts. True, increasing the interest rate may negatively affect investments, but monetary stability is a main factor for creative investment. Hence, economic priority will be given to the promotion of investment, and to long-term loans from the banks.

Drawing on the country's experiences in financial policies, Dr. Fariz realised that inflation in 1989 stood at 25.6 percent, but dropped in 1995 to only 2.3 percent. As for the CBI's reserve of foreign currencies, he said it was \$127.5 million in 1988 and reached \$825 million in 1995. He added that Jordan's foreign debts, including arms, stood at \$4465 million, and domestic debts amounted to JD 966 million in 1995, while Iraq owes Jordan about \$1300 million.



Dr. Ziad Fariz

EU food aid to Jordan through WFO

● A CONSIGNMENT of 5000 tons of hard durum wheat to Jordan was received from the European Union food aid to the World Food Programme (WFP) in Jordan. The EU is currently supporting the WFP's Agricultural Development of the Highlands Project by providing food commodities, namely wheat, oil and pulses. It will distribute these to small scale farmers within the project. The EU's contribution for 1995 comprises 140 metric tons of rapeseed oil, 1650 metric tons of sunflower oil, 5000 metric tons of hard durum wheat and 202 metric tons of pulses.

Palestine Post

Edited by Marwan Al Asmar

Agriculture takes a beating

● Palestinian agriculture is taking a beating as a result of the two-week old Israeli imposed total security blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Agriculture produce is not being allowed to enter the markets in towns. This has resulted in substantial financial losses and shortages of food supplies.

The consequence of this could be disastrous for the agricultural sector. This sector has already lost millions of dollars. In Gaza alone the agricultural sector is losing about a million dollar each day.

Hardest hit are the flower growers. Producers estimate that they are losing about \$300 per each flower dunum daily. Flower growers have flourished in the Strip and were expecting a boundful year with total of 700,000 flowers being produced daily for exports.

Up until last Wednesday it was reported that there are at least 10 million flowers that are waiting to be exported. Growers say that they could face financial ruin if Israel does not lift the blockade because flowers have a short life span.

However, towards the end of the week, the first shipment of flowers was allowed to Holland through the Cairo International Airport. About 34 tons were allowed.

But the flowers problem still continues. *Al Quds* daily reported that the Israeli authorities are now stopping the packaging material for flowers from entering Gaza. Israeli authorities say the material is a security risk and could be used for carrying arms into the Gaza Strip.

Other farming sectors have also been hit. The prices of citrus farmers have plummeted 20 kilos of oranges is being sold for about five shakels. As a result some farmers prefer to leave the produce on the trees rather than sell it at a loss.

The price of vegetables has also deteriorated. A box of tomatoes, courgettes, and potatoes is being sold at three shakels. Similarly, the price of a kilo of strawberries has dropped to less than a shakel.

The condonation of the Israeli blockade has meant that produce is not getting to market. This has not only created food shortage, but deterioration in prices. This is what happened in Jericho. While stacked boxes of vegetables waited to be delivered to other areas of the West Bank, farmers were complaining of mounting debts. These were compounded by the fact that prices were increasing. But that is not all. Since farmers could not sell, they were not allowed to buy their agricultural needs. A vicious circle that occurred in Tulkarem, Qalqilya and Jenin.

Face to face

● The first face to face meeting took place between the Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and the Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. The occasion was the Sharm el Sheikh Summit that took place last week. Dennis Ross, the US peace coordinator said the meeting between the two took place in one of the hotel lobbies where the conference was being held.

On another note, the Qatari Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani, invited the Israeli Minister to visit Qatar any time he likes. What was interesting was that the minister made the invitation while he was at the podium delivering his country's message to the Peace Makers Summit.

Speaking before the summit, a high level Qatari official said that he expected the visit of Mr Peres to take place between 25 March and 5 April. He also said that commercial offices between the two countries is expected to be announced during the visit. If this takes place, Qatar will be the second Arab Gulf state to normalize relations with Israel after Oman.

Jordanian military men visit Israel.

● Fifteen Jordanian top ranking military officers visited Israel, on an official visit. Later, together with the Israeli General Arian Beiran, the commander of the central region, they visited Jerusalem.

The head of the Jordanian delegation was Gen. Mansour Rashid. The officers went on a sightseeing tour of Jerusalem and bought presents for their families. One of the officers said that this is the first time he visited Jerusalem and said "it is a very beautiful city." Another said that many Jordanians visit Jerusalem and "that this is one of the fruits of peace."

The head of the Jordanian military intelligence, Gen. Tahsir Shurudum was in Israel last week. He was met by his Israeli counterpart Gen. Moshe Allon. According to *Al Quds*, the two discussed Hamas activities in Jordan. Meetings between the two sides are expected to increase and the offices of Hamas are expected to close down.

Demolitions: the double standard

● The recent statements of the Israeli Minister of Education Shmuel Aloni hits the nail on the head. She comes as a sobering voice at a time when the world is screaming about violence, terrorism and yes, Hamas.

Her call on her government to adopt similar tactics in dealing with Israeli terrorism as that dealt with Palestinian violence is particularly revealing coming from an Israeli leader.

She said demolition of Palestinian houses as a punishment to stop violence must be applied forcefully on Israelis when they commit such acts. Why did the government not demolish the house of Baruch Goldstein when he gunned down over 25 people in the Ibrahimi Mosque. Why didn't the government demolish the house Yigal Amir when he shot Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin she pointed out.

By William Drozdiak
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

GENEVA—The leaders of Croatia and Serbia promised to send three senior military officers to The Hague by the end of this month to stand trial for alleged war crimes, marking a significant boost in their cooperation on what is deemed one of the most sensitive issues of the Bosnia peace accords.

The joint agreement, which calls for Zagreb to dispatch a Croatian general suspected of mass murder and Belgrade to deliver two Bosnian Serb officers accused of ordering the killing of Muslim civilians in Srebrenica last summer, was hailed by US officials as an encouraging breakthrough at a time when efforts to carry out the American-brokered peace agreement have reached a critical threshold.

After nearly eight hours of talks here with Balkan leaders, Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced the extradition deal along with a package of other measures, including stepped-up NATO patrols in the troubled Sarajevo suburbs, designed to sustain the cease-fire, accelerate recovery from four years of war and prepare free elections in Bosnia by the end of this summer.

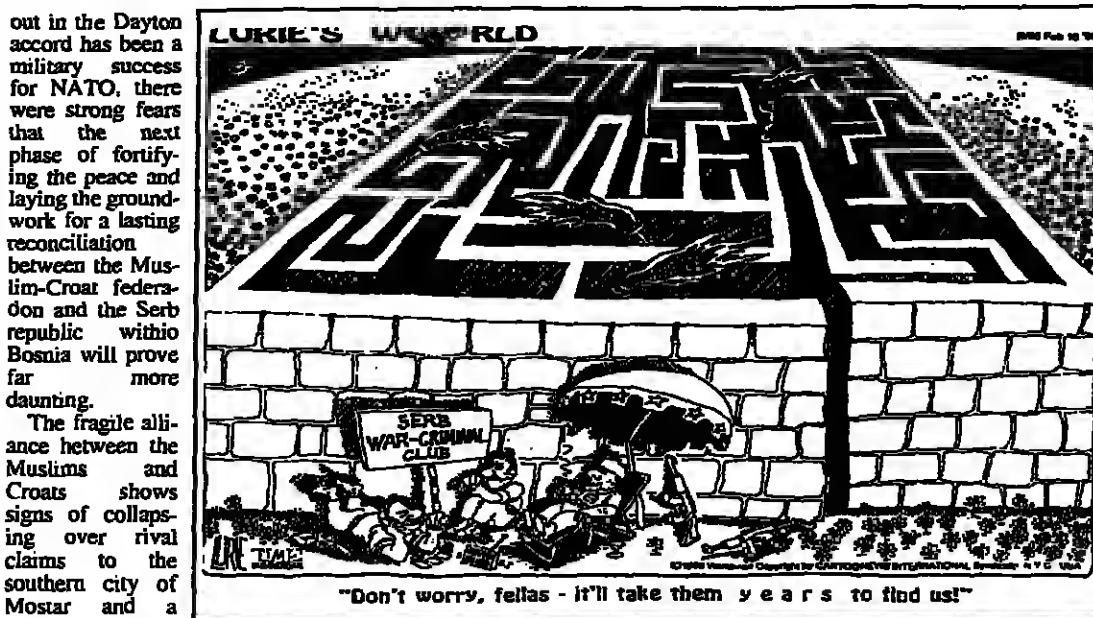
The meeting, which brought together Presidents Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and acting President Elijaz Ganic of Bosnia, was arranged to mark the separation of belligerents achieved during the three months since NATO's 60,000-strong peacekeeping force began arriving in Bosnia to implement the agreement reached last fall in Dayton, Ohio.

"The killing has ended, the armies have withdrawn," Christopher said at a news conference. "This is an extraordinary accomplishment, one that many thought would never be possible."

But if the withdrawal of rival Bosnian forces to the lines set

Croatia, Serbia

Agreement on war crimes tribunal



"Don't worry, fellas - it'll take them years to find us!"

out in the Dayton accord has been a military success for NATO, there were strong fears that the next phase of fortifying the peace and laying the groundwork for a lasting reconciliation between the Muslim-Croat federation and the Serb republic within Bosnia will prove far more daunting.

The fragile alliance between the Muslims and Croats shows signs of collapsing over rival claims to the southern city of Mostar and a reluctance to create a joint government.

Meanwhile, the chaotic departure of tens of thousands of Bosnian Serbs from Sarajevo suburbs has strengthened the belief of many Bosnians that any hopes of reviving their multiethnic state are rapidly fading.

"My main worry is that the forces of ethnic separation still are far stronger than the forces of ethnic reintegration," said Carl Bildt, the former Swedish prime minister who oversees the civilian side of the peace process. "The developments in and around Sarajevo, as well as the tensions in the federation,

bear tragic testimony to this fact."

With violence and arson still taking place in the last of five Serb-held areas near Sarajevo, Christopher said US Adm. Leighton W Smith Jr., the commander of NATO's peacekeeping force, gave fresh orders Monday to step up patrols in Grbavica to help restore order and smooth the transition from Serb to the Muslim-Croat federation authorities.

Under Smith's new instructions, NATO troops will have the authority to detain suspected looters and arsonists for up to 72 hours. But US officials emphasized these "additional responsibilities" are only temporary, and that NATO forces are determined not to be sucked into police duties that remain the responsibility of local governments.

NATO troops have also shied away from hunting down the 53 accused war criminals, nearly all of whom are still at large. But Christopher said the consent given by Milosevic and Tudjman to extradite accused officers in their custody bolstered hopes that the governments of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia will start handing

over suspects voluntarily.

Christopher said Croatian authorities will soon arrange for Gen. Tihomir Blaskic to be turned over to the Hague tribunal to stand trial for acts of genocide and other war crimes committed in Vitez in central Bosnia.

The two Bosnian Serb officers, Drzen Erdemovic and Ratislav Krenovic, were accused of ordering dozens if not hundreds of killings in the massacre of Muslim civilians from the eastern town of Srebrenica last summer. They were arrested two weeks ago by Serbian authorities and have been held in Belgrade pending extradition.

Only two of the 53 accused war criminals are now awaiting trial in The Hague, and US officials said there were no indications yet that the most wanted suspects, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his top military commander, Ratko Mladic will be seized and expelled by Serbian authorities.

Egypt willing to remove any impediments to investments

By George S. Hishneh
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—We are determined to go ahead with removing any impediments, any administrative blockage or any action that is needed, whether it is a new law, a modification of an existing law or it is an attitude to pave the way for increased foreign investments in Egypt.

This assertion was made to American and Egyptian businessmen by Egypt's new Minister of Economy and International Cooperation, Nawal el-Tatawi, at a luncheon here March 12.

The American-educated minister, the first Arab woman to hold this position anywhere in the Arab world, is in the United States on a 10-day visit promoting investments in Egypt and meeting with senior officials of the US government and international financial institutions. She also spoke at a conference in New York on investing in Egypt.

Tatawi emphasized that the new Egyptian government of Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri, which came to office last January, is determined to see Egypt "ready for the takeoff at the threshold of the 21st Century."

Considering the determination and potentialities, she continued, "I am very hopeful it is going to take place with a lot of your help," she said at the luncheon, hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, which fielded about 50 Egyptian businessmen who were on the last leg of a tour of several U.S. cities seeking joint business ventures.

Tatawi told the capacity audience at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, located across from the White House, that Egypt is seeking "to accelerate the rate of growth of the economy to an average of seven to eight percent."

She explained that "a major objective" of this undertaking is to improve the living standards of the Egyptian people, and "not only a rate of growth that can be achieved in one of the sectors at the cost of depriving some of the population."

This will entail, she acknowledged, a faster growth rate of the productive sector, as well as the commodity and agriculture sectors; the latter provides "subsistence to about 50 percent of the population."

She said there is still room for improvement in farming practices, introduction of new technology, reduction of waste and reorientation towards exports—"much more than we are doing" at present. She also pointed to favorable water table resources that could help in desert reclamation, which to date, she added, has been done with the assistance of the Egyptian private sector.

Compared with the agriculture sector where the government is planning, she recalled that foreign investment under the current Foreign Investment Law has amounted to 55,000 million Egyptian pounds. She said about 60 percent of these funds came from Egyptians, reflecting a growing Egyptian confidence in the economy.

Tatawi also pointed out that Egyptians abroad are now investing in Egypt. But, she continued, no matter how much Egyptians are able to increase the saving rate, the country will "need more to fill the gap" to meet its objectives. She estimated Egyptian capital abroad to be anywhere between 30 and 40 billion dollars. Moreover, she pointed out that Arab capital abroad is estimated at 700 billion dollars.

The minister, who previously held positions at the World Bank and the United Nations, acknowledged that before Egypt can expect an inflow of foreign capital, conditions have to improve.

She cited improvements in the country's physical infrastructure and provision of basic financial infrastructures, and deregulation in the legislative and administrative framework of the country.

Nevertheless, she promised that the new government is "very determined to go ahead" with additional improvements. She pointed to the 20 working groups set up "to listen to any

complaint" and to speed up the procedure for reform.

She pointed to the new investment procedures allowing investors to "simply notify" the government of their investment rather than seeking prior approval, the reduction on tariffs on capital goods and the law to give land free or at nominal rent to investors.

Tatawi also emphasized the "big push in the field of privatization," where over 100 industrial companies and hotels will be sold to the private sector in the next two years.

"We look to privatization," she continued, "not as a matter of title or providing money for the government, but an objective to promote competition in the market and provide further entry to investors in different fields as well as freeing the government resources to be invested in areas which are the main occupation of government."

She continued: "You are welcome to share in this endeavor through direct investment or the possibilities of international financial institutions setting up funds and buying share on the capital market."

She concluded her remarks by noting that Egypt, as a result of the Mideast peace process, has the potential to develop regional schemes.

"We are determined to make Egypt take off," she said. "We know it is our responsibility but we need your help to accomplish all of this."

According to the bank's records, the total assets of this financial institution amounted to JD 1.103 billion (a 13.5 percent increase over 1995). Deposits at the bank grew by 7.6 percent, and realized earnings amounted to JD 48.214 million in 1995 compared with only JD 30.487 million in 1994 (a 58 percent increase).

The bank's figures also show that its total expenditures in 1995 were JD 27.351 million, and appropriation for covering the bank's activities in different fields amounted to JD 10.612 million.

The Housing Bank is seen throughout the country as the second effective and influential financial institution in terms of deposits, assets, and banking services.

The Housing Bank's Board of Directors has been chaired by the well known Jordanian banker Mr. Zuhair Khouri, and deputy general manager Mr. Abdul Qader Dweik.

The Sudanese elections have presented another momentous occasion. Not only elections were in elect a president, but a 275 parliamentary seats of the 400 Sudanese parliament. With a high electoral turnout throughout the country, the current president Omar Al Bashir proved a sure winner. This time 40 people stood against the president. This is really unprecedented in Sudan's history. Having come as a result of a military coup, Al Bashir later proved popular. As expected the opposition which was banned in 1989, boycotted the elections. Thirteen candidates subsequently withdrew because of what the claimed as serious irregularities in the voting procedures.

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Regional view

● Kuwait might finally be moving in the black. Her budget has witnessed a condonal deficit since the Gulf War, because of the huge expenditure it had to rebuild the country. However, international investors are confident that Kuwait will soon once again be a high powered economy it once was. However, not yet out of the red, this year's budget is still expected to have a deficit of \$4.4 billion.

● Tahrir has finally lashed out at Palestinian National Authority President Yasser Arafat. The chairman said Iran was behind the last Hamas bombings in Israel, and that it must stop. However, Iran totally rejected such a claim. Spokesman at the Iranian Foreign Ministry said he was very surprised by such accusations which were jointly made between Arafat and Israel. But Arafat was adamant, saying the bombs were carried out with Iran's complicity.

● Qatar could eventually be moving into the GCC fold. In their last meeting in Saudi Arabia, the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council said they were satisfied with the Council's performance and that the differences between the GCC countries have been ironed out. As a show of friendship, Qatar says it supports the appointment of Mr. Jamil Hiljan, who is a Saudi, as Secretary-General of the GCC.

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Record profits for Housing Bank



Zuhair Khouri

HOUSING BANK profits in 1995 reached an unprecedented growth. It reached JD10.25 million. This is a 76.5 percent increase over the bank's profits in the year before.

According to the bank's records, the total assets of this financial institution amounted to JD 1.103 billion (a 13.5 percent increase over 1995). Deposits at the bank grew by 7.6 percent, and realized earnings amounted to JD 48.214 million in 1995 compared with only JD 30.487 million in 1994 (a 58 percent increase).

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- National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

Ticket price: JD 7

World Bank release on Mideast, North Africa water crisis

Washington—The water crisis facing the Middle East and North Africa cannot be avoided if steps are taken immediately, according to a new World Bank report, "From Scarcity to Security: Averting a Water Crisis in the Middle East and North Africa."

The report cites Gaza as "one of the most extreme examples of the water crisis," where each Palestinian now has access to less than 15 gallons of water per day, compared to 800 gallons of water for each American.

"The critical conditions in Gaza and across the region can be remedied within a decade if steps are taken immediately. The key will be for countries to fundamentally change the way water is used and managed, to make the most of what is available, the report says."

"These changes must take place quickly," said Kamal Dervis, World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), commenting on the report's recommendations in a March 20 World Bank release.

"The bank has outlined steps which

we think will help countries in the region face the critical water shortages before they affect human welfare further, and before they have a greater impact on economic activity and stability in the region."

"I believe the international community, including the World Bank, must play its part in the effort to avert a water crisis," Dervis said, adding that the bank is calling for a water conference in the region to be held in early 1997.

The report says that if no action is taken in Gaza, each Palestinian may have less than 8 gallons of water per day within 30 years. But, the critical conditions in Gaza and across the region can be remedied within a decade, water availability for domestic and industrial use could be increased by 50 percent regionwide, and water losses, now amounting to about 50 percent of municipal water supplied, could be cut by half if steps are taken immediately.

The key will be for countries to fundamentally change the way water is

used and managed to make the most of what is available, the report says. Regional investments needed to achieve such a goal will be between \$45 billion and \$60 billion over the next 10 years, the report estimates, with the bulk of future investments to come from the countries themselves, mostly through user charges. Donors are expected to contribute about 25 percent of the costs.

Averting the region's water crisis will require work on several fronts, according to the report, which lays out a four-point action plan: Mobilizing each country's efforts to achieve cooperation and participation in water issues within all levels of society; integrating national water resource planning and policy-making to reconcile competing demands for water; using water more efficiently while reducing pollution through legislation and seeking alternative sources of water; and through water imports, regional and local water markets, and, at a later stage, through affordable desalination.

Migrant colony builds a new life in Russia

Many, indeed, are frustrated by the cold welcome. They say they often are shocked by the poverty, passivity and drunkenness of their new neighbors, who in turn tend to resent the migrants' determination to rise above them.

By Richard Boudreaux
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

BORISGLEBSK, Russia—As Russians retreating in humiliation from the Soviet empire's lost outposts began to settle here a few years ago, fearful voices at a town meeting demanded a "sanitary cordon" to strangle the new colony.

The newcomers, they said, were Russians. But not like us. After all, they're from Central Asia and talk with their hands. They might impose Islam. They'll bring disease, maybe guns and drugs, and take our jobs, our bread, the water from our wells.

But the settlers kept coming and they now number 6,000. This spring, they will start moving out of cramped trailers on the edge of town and into a stylish village of brick cottages and apartments that has its own school and hospital—the largest Russian community ever created by and for migrants.

Instead of a burden, the colony has become a boon to this industrial town of 75,000 people, where unpainted wooden fences line the streets and horse carts slow traffic. A settlers' network of 18 companies pays local taxes. They have restored a stadium, rescued the town from a flood and busted costly local monopolies on road paving and cement mixing.

"This used to be a sleepy provincial town; the migrants woke it up," says Mayor Valery Lebedev. "They have broken the old stereotypes of what life should be like. They are creating good living conditions like the ones they had. To tell the truth, there is not a single problem the migrants cannot help us solve."

The biggest Europe-bound migration of the late 20th century—the flow of Russians to a weakened, insecure moth-

erland—is shaking up towns and villages from the Baltic Sea to the Ural Mountains, with no lull in sight. Pushed across borders by ethnic violence and the uncertainties of life in what suddenly became foreign countries, more than three million Russians have arrived in a homeland many had never seen. There, because of an urban housing crunch, this displaced colonial elite—which includes some of Russia's best doctors, teachers and engineers—must reinvent their lives in the backwaters.

Roughly two-thirds have settled with relatives or on their own. The rest have banded together to build a few hundred pioneer "compact settlements" across the map. The new colonies are met almost everywhere by suspicion, jealousy and inadequate public assistance. Russia's Security Council warned in a 1994 report that migrants frustrated by a lack of jobs and housing could become "a destabilizing factor in political life," strengthening forces that agitate to restore the Soviet Union.

But recent interviews with migrants resettling in Russian regions paint a less alarming picture.

Many, indeed, are frustrated by the cold welcome. They say they often are shocked by the poverty, passivity and drunkenness of their new neighbors, who in turn tend to resent the migrants' determination to rise above them.

It is this drive, however, that makes the organized migrants, by their own definition, a reformist force in small-town Russia rather than a lobby against the post-Soviet order. Their energies go into self-help schemes for getting on their feet. Their politics are local.

Some settlements, little more than trailer camps next to construction sites of unfinished homes, are on the verge of bankruptcy and despair. Most, however, are

eking out profits from small businesses that help finance home building.

"I would say most of them are successful, unless you define success as driving a Mercedes-Benz," said Boris Sergeyev, chairman of Compatriots, a private agency that channels loans and foreign assistance to migrant settlements. "What they have is the ability to survive in the tough conditions Russia presents today."

Migrants have cornered the dumping market in Pskov and the plastic sheeting trade in Saratov. Ninety entrepreneurs have received \$700,000 in chain-saws, baking ovens, sewing machines and other start-up equipment from the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration. They employ other migrants and are starting to trade among themselves. Fifteen nonprofit migrant associations offer members legal and employment services.

"A national network is developing," said Richard Morris, the Geneva organization's field officer in Russia. "Migrants understand each other like combat veterans. They're going through a crisis in their lives when they've lost almost everything."

The fate of any migrant settlement depends a lot on the personal relationship between its leader and the mayor. In most places it is civil.

Here in Borisoglebsk, in an eastern Russian grain-growing region, the two men have become friends and share the dream of building the finest town hall in Russia.

Each month, a train car arrives filled with new migrant families. Khoko's branch in Dushanbe, the Tajik capital, selects them to settle here and work for the expanding company, which now has 960 employees.

Anatoly Balashov, 49, a gruff, man who resembles former Polish leader Lech Walesa, is the driving force of this venture. His parents, banished by Stalin's police, took him as an infant to Tajikistan, where he grew up to study math and practice interior design.

"I use to work in a bright, clean, warm studio," he said, tromping through mud and snow on a tour of his sprawling project. "I used to drive past construction sites like this, see workers in rubber boots and think, 'Boy, am I lucky I don't do that for a living!' Now my life has changed completely."

Now Balashov is learning to navigate Russia's wild capitalism. He also is trying to fend off the town's ultranationalist Cossack chief, who claims that migration is a CIA plot to pit Russians against Russians, weaken the nation and make towns like Borisoglebsk "explode."

As the settlement prospers, such phobia has given way to envy and greed. A woman phoned a call-in debate on television in December to ask how, if these migrants are supposed to be so poor, can they build such nice homes?

Citing a need to upgrade its service, the phone company is demanding \$10,000 for a single line to Khoko's new health clinic. Powerful utility bosses "are trying to turn Khoko into a milk cow," said Sergei Mikhailov, a local businessman in partnership with the settlers.

But attitudes toward the migrants are improving, thanks to their civic deeds and the support of the local Russian Orthodox priest, who blessed Khoko's cornerstone. Migrant children go to the town school and a migrant leader sits on the elected town council. Khoko employs about 100 townspeople who left dying Soviet-era factories; when Khoko's village is finished, half the 4,500 homes will be offered for sale

to locals.

If a poll were taken today, Mayor Lebedev says, "it would be pretty even, for and against them," a shift in the migrants' favor.

Balashov checked 12 rural sites before deciding to set up in Borisoglebsk. The 350-year-old town has a dwindling, graying population and dozens of historic buildings in need of the settlers' restorative talents. In return for free trailers and work credits to be exchanged for permanent housing, Khoko employees accept six-day work weeks, low wages and a long wait. Rather than build in a hurry, Balashov chose to transform Khoko piece by piece into a fully integrated construction conglomerate with enough regular clients all over Russia to survive—after the village is finished.

The conglomerate started in a converted stable, where architects produce state-of-the-art blueprints on German-made computers for one-tenth the sala-

ry they could earn in Moscow. It branched into workshops in Otonet: the huts that fabricate every construction item from nails to roof tiles. It owns the biggest fleet of trucks, cranes and bulldozers in town, along with a printing press, jewelry shop, baby food factory and sewing co-op.

Balashov orders background checks on all future settlers and has them searched for guns and drugs when they arrive. He prowls his factories, breaking up domino games and sniffing for alcohol. Fifteen workers have been expelled for drunkenness. His 32-man security force follows certain settlers to town to keep them out of trouble.

Ultimately, what keeps Khoko and other colonies going is collective spirit and a belief that Russia, no matter how inhospitable, offers far better opportunity than the places they fled. Of Khoko's 15 founders, all but one—a man whose marriage failed—are still together after years of sacrifice.



Settling migrants are finding it hard to be accepted

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Latest from Britain

Sex, private lives and videotapes

By Fred Barbash
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

LONDON—Britain bristles with video surveillance cameras—more per capita, according to some estimates, than any other country.

They scrutinize parking garages, housing developments, department stores and offices, all in the interest of fighting crime. They also watch couples intertwined in office stockrooms, elevators and cars; women undressing in department store changing rooms; and husbands and wives in domestic squabbles.

Such scenes, which once titillated only security officers, have now arrived in video stores everywhere, for the viewing pleasure of anyone over 18 willing to spend roughly \$15. For those who prefer violence to sex, the two tapes on the market also feature, among other things, an old man getting beaten up in a store robbery, drug dealers bashing each other with pipes and a selection of "ram raids," in which thieves break into shops by ramming a car through the entrance.

The tapes' producers have purchased the footage from insurance companies, security firms and local governmental authorities, according to James Hunt, the chief "researcher" for one production, "Caught in the Act."

Hunt says their point is to show "the dark side of surveillance systems"—and also, by the way, to make money. The videos—the other is titled "Really Caught in the Act"—have prompted modest outrage (but no laws) in Parliament and vigorous protests from Britain's main civil-liberties organization, which is pushing for a law that would restrict the use and distribution of footage from closed-circuit television, referred to here as CCTV.

"This misuse of material brings CCTV, which is a very valuable tool in the fight against crime, into disrepute," Bruce Gale, a member of Parliament's Media Committee, told Britain's Press Association. "Anyone can do this," said Duncan Lustig-Preen, a spokesman for the civil-liberties group Liberty.

"There are no controls at all. We think it's quite appalling that members of the public can be caught like this."

Without a bill of rights offering protection from government intrusions on privacy, individuals have no recourse against local government agencies that provide such tapes to producers. The producers protect themselves from invasion-of-privacy lawsuits by making the footage sufficiently fuzzy—if it is not already—to prevent identification of those caught in the act, not that the average person would be likely to come forward.

While their faces are unidentifiable, their candid performances are quite clear: the man and woman making love amid the manila folders, the couple making love in the front seat of a large car, the woman—described in "Caught in the Act" as a shoplifter—disrobing in an unnamed department-store dressing room.

For good measure, the latest video features a "re-enactment" of Princess Diana's being videotaped as she browsed a fashionable London department store, with a look-alike actress playing her part in what the producers claim is a realistic version of an actual event.

Hunt happily acknowledges that while the videos purport to be a form of protest about surveillance, they also bring in money. "We sold 60,000 in the first morning" when a revised version of "Caught in the Act" was released last week, he said, and "we've ordered another 125,000 copies."

When it comes down to video journalism—and that is what we claim to be—we're total hypocrites.

Britain's Local Government Information Unit, an umbrella organization of city and county authorities, is proposing a new voluntary Spy Camera Code that would restrict access to the tapes. Alan Pickstock, a spokesman for the group, estimated that 300 of the country's 400 local government agencies operate security cameras as a crime deterrent.

He said work on the code began before the videos hit the shelves, following a study that highlighted the absence of restrictions on who gets to look at what Liberty, the civil liberties group, does not think voluntary codes go far enough. The debut of "Caught in the Act" last month caused a controversy that prompted its producers to withdraw it, edit it—eliminating, among other things, sex in an elevator—and then reissue it last week, taking full advantage of the flap. This is "the footage 'they' don't want you to see," says the blurb on the new version's cover. In the interim, a copycat producer put out a similar video called "Really Caught in the Act: CCTV—The Shocking Truth."

Hunt fully expects to pull the new version as well, since members of Parliament already have voiced outrage about it. "But," said Hunt, "we can sell large numbers before it's withdrawn again. We're hoping we can keep this going."



Paddling to Peshawar

Bicycles for smuggling

By Kenneth J. Cooper

The Washington Post

LANDI KOTAL, Pakistan—

Boys and old men alike, they pedaled bicycles on the hilly road from this border bazaar town to Peshawar, riding not for fun but for profit.

The bikes were so new that brown paper and plastic bubble wrap still protected their shiny black frames and fenders. Labels identified the contents of the cardboard boxes mounted on the back of almost every bike as glassware, blenders, "cinnamon" or "banana," as in flavors of chewing gum. The more enterprising had lashed another new bicycle across the back fender.

The dozens of cyclists formed an illegal end of the line for consumer goods that Pakistan lets landlocked Afghanistan import duty-free under a 1965 treaty. Goods shipped to Karachi, Pakistan's port, are trucked to Afghanistan and unloaded at an outdoor warehouse just across the border at Torkham.

Then many items are smuggled right back into Pakistan for sale at bargain prices in the well-stocked bazaars here and outside Peshawar.

Smuggling has proceeded openly despite checkpoints on the road from the border to Peshawar. Most of Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province is defined as "tribal areas,"

where national laws do not apply beyond the roadbed. The limited jurisdiction dates to a colonial accommodation between British rulers and fierce Pathan tribesmen.

"The border is porous. Traditionally, people can cross without a passport or visas, so it's easy to bring goods from Afghanistan into the tribal areas," explained V.A. Jafarey, economic adviser to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. "Once into tribal areas, it's easy to transport them to other areas of Pakistan."

It's so easy that Pakistan has instead concentrated its efforts to stop the smuggling at the other end of the pipeline. Since late 1994, Pakistan has banned the duty-free importation under the Afghan Transit Trade Agreement of televisions, air conditioners, refrigerators and a dozen other items. Preferential treatment of black tea ended, because the shipments appeared clearly aimed at Pakistan's market. Traditionally, Afghans sip green tea.



Like other nations of South Asia, Pakistan has opened its economy to international trade, stimulating demand for foreign-made goods. Shoppers from the cities of Lahore and Islamabad, the capital, are known to trek to Peshawar to buy smuggled goods. Some board buses to carry the consumer goods farther into Pakistan's interior for resale.

Jafarey estimated that the smuggling has cost his government \$200 million a year in uncollected customs duties. Apart from that, it's adversely

affecting our industry, and that loss is incalculable," he said.

Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani has protested Pakistan's "unilateral actions" in revising terms of the trade agreement. Relations have deteriorated in the last year, largely because of Pakistan's alleged support of the Taliban, one of the factions fighting to oust Rabbani's government from Kabul, Afghanistan's capital.

Jafarey said Bhutto's government would like to renegotiate the treaty but cannot do so because of the disorder created by Afghanistan's civil war. Rabbani's government, for instance, does not control the border crossing at Torkham. "We had to take action on our own to

prevent damage to our economy," Jafarey said.

The smuggling continues. A dozen cyclists said they were Afghan refugees who live near Peshawar and take a bus to Landi Kotal to pick up bicycles. One boy in his early teens said he was orphaned in Afghanistan's decade of war against the Soviet army. A man said he supported two sisters whose husbands were killed in the war.

For a 30-mile trip that takes about two hours, the refugees said they are paid about a dollar for riding the bike and \$2 if they also bring a box of goods, slightly more if they carry a second bicycle. One bicycle was seen with a bike plus a box—a \$3 load. On a good day, the energetic can make

two or three trips between Landi Kotal and Peshawar, they said.

One cyclist said they bribed guards to get through checkpoints. Another denied, in the presence of foreigners, making payoffs. The men and boys complained that they were being denied the chance to make additional trips that day because an uncooperative guard just down the road would not let them pass through his checkpoint until dark. It was early afternoon.

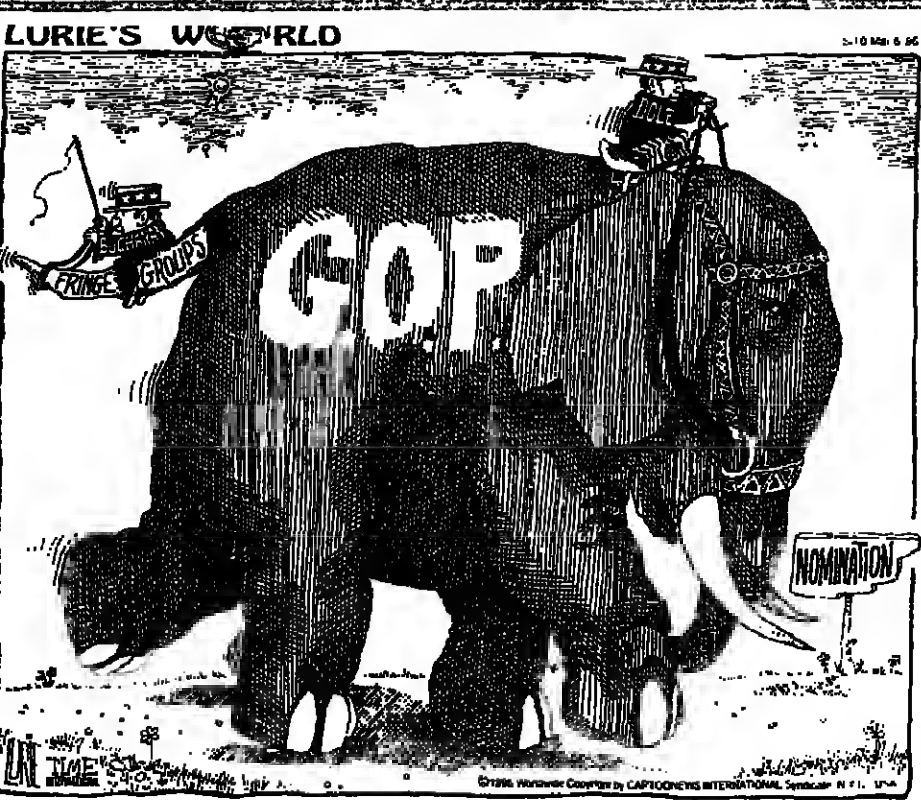
So with the new bikes parked in the sun, the cycle smugglers lounged around the dusty roadside waiting for nightfall.

Award for journalists writings on women and AIDS

AMMAN—An international award recognizing the journalist who writes the most compelling article on women and AIDS is being sponsored by the Family Health International/AIDS Control and Prevention Project (AIDSCAP) and the United Nations AIDS Programme (UNAIDS).

Submissions must be received by April 15, 1996. All articles will be judged by an international panel of renowned journalists. Articles will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Promotion of readers' understanding of women's risk to HIV/AIDS
2. Promotion of readers' understanding of the societal changes needed to empower women to protect themselves from infection
3. Encouragement of political awareness, commitment and action to respond to the specific needs of women
4. Balance, accuracy, and clarity.





Prince Zeid opens Fest

THE NEW English School Amman's First Ballet Fest last Sunday, 17 March.

The event which was the first of its kind, was under the patronage of HRE Prince Raed Bin Zeid.

The school is recognized as the center of the British Ballet Organization in Jordan. Coordinating the event was Edwina Issa, head of the performing arts programme at the school.



Himat Ali displays marvels of painting at Darat Al-Funun

Ink meditations and mixed media

By Eyad Ammani
Special to The Star

FORTY-SEVEN works of Himat Mohammad Ali's art works are on display at Darat Al-Funun. The exhibition, entitled Meditations, was opened on 28 February. Twenty-nine of the works are ink on paper, 16 are mixed media on paper and wood, and two are mixed media on screens. The Iraqi artist had 13 solo and 14 group exhibitions. He also prefers to leave all of his works untitled.

Himat likes to use all materials for his work, but prefers ink for easiness. "I use ink because it's always available," he told The Star. "It's not what you use, it's what you wish to expose. You can't call me an ink artist, I like everything," he added. Himat likes to express certain things to his works. However, he is not at all a symbolist. "When you're expressing something, you express yourself, your family, your surroundings," he said.

Himat believes beautiful material and spiritual things have

been killed. "War and politics changed man to a partial machine. There's war all over the planet, fought either with weapons or with thoughts," Himat said. His approach to his art is best described as automatism, trying to alleviate the "real person instead of the socially programmed person to me." He also believes that with the death of beauty, love and honesty have died too. "There's an internal suffering because of all that, it stays with me, it occupies my mind, therefore it surfaces in what I do," he added.

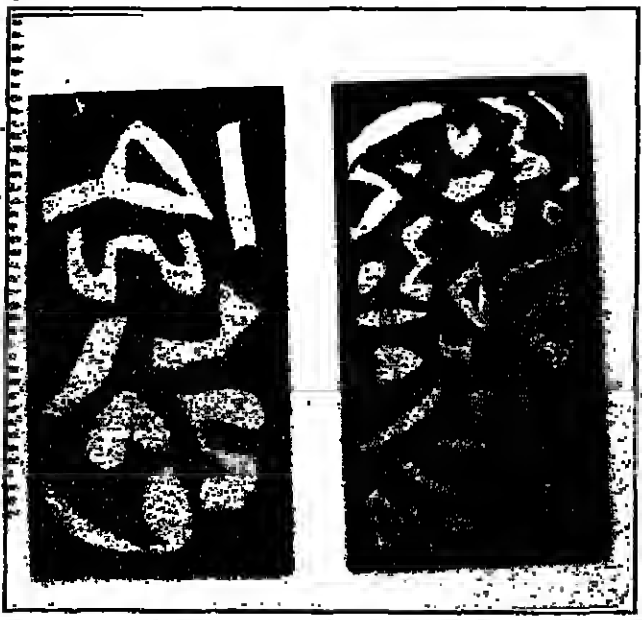
His works are displays of repetitive patterns. "It could be a spiritual repetition," he said. Sometimes, one of anything may not do. "Everyone repeats what they wish to call their desire, you keep doing it till you are satisfied. And every time you do it, it's different than before. Very much like the prayers, five times a day. It gets better all the time. It's a meditation." Himat hates being called an abstractionist, he refuses to be called a symbolist either. He does what he does and it's a "meditation."

The works on ink on paper are breathtaking. In some of the paintings, the shapes come so close to being similar to the planarisation in Arabic letters. The composition is dynamic, and flowing. Every painting is a space in itself. They could be graphical at times, but are



many steps above lithographs and prints. Himat manages to keep a sharp contrast in all of his paintings while keeping them comfortable and simple to view.

The mixed media works are darker and less subtle. They don't have the depth of the ink works, but they seem to be the complementary part of the colors which are absent in the former ones. The mixed media works have greater color sophistication and development of theme. The two screens are the most sophisticated of Himat's works. Very mature and vibrant, the screens strike the viewer with their detail and dexterity. Himat's exhibition is on till March 28.



By Harry Pullens
Special to The Star

AS ONE enters into professor Tawfik Sayed's studio in Jabal Jofa, one is reminded instantly of a hermitage or an alchemist laboratory, in an area entirely free from any artistic fever.

But, however this dingy studio might seem, it is filled with outstanding work of art which was exhibited at many of the world's top galleries and museums.

Sayed himself is not unknown. A well-established pioneer artist and staunch cultural exponent, he started drawing at the age of six.

Though born in Safad, Palestine in 1939, Sayed grew up in Amman. Through the years, he has combined various forms of art which include painting, architecture, sculpture and caricature.

Looking back in time, he explained that his personal artistic experience is intricately woven with the history of the artistic movement in the country. "I am one of the founding members of the first two art associations and the first artist in the country to be interviewed by Jordan Radio," he told The Star.

In 1950 he started his artistic career as a talented self-taught artist. Before leaving the country in the sixties, he had shown an extraordinary ability.

He subsequently gained scholarship from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, San Fernando, Spain. Rounding up his studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome, he spent a number of years researching anatomy and perspective. Over the years he has shifted between realism, expressionism and abstraction.

At his studio, though his work are cramped together in the ungenerous space, his ingenuity and profound imagination are revealed. There are innumerable works from different periods of his artistic experience. They have a number of distinct character-



Tawfik Sayed

istics, they are elegant and sophisticated; their themes are derived from everything. Mr Sayed's interest has recently shifted to the great

need to improve the worsening circumstances facing creative people and culturalist in the Kingdom as well as the Arab world.

He said pioneering artists like himself are suffering from lack of appreciation by the appropriate authorities because of the inherent politics of patronage and favoritism which have come to define the new age of arts in the Kingdom.

He decried the Ministry of Culture for what he described as its incompetency in guiding or directing Jordan's arts in the right way.

"The Ministry of Culture, authority is given to those who have no qualification or genuine artistic interest while those who are qualified and concerned are neglected," he said.

Tawfik Sayed shares his views on the state of art Inherent politics of patronage defines art in Jordan

Sayed maintains that many may call this bureaucracy but for him it is dishonesty. Dishonesty he believes can be very intimidating, if a change is not effected. "It can destroy creativity and expunge excellence from the entire artistic movement in the Kingdom."

"A state of an artistic association that is subservient to outsiders who have no genuine artistic judgment and interest is not permissible," he said. He also expressed disappointment as he believes many art associations around the country are dominated by the rich who have no real interest in arts.

Professor Sayed believes art should be conceptual and elitist to avoid saturation, since this is misleading for the young generation.

The artist, who boasts a vast knowledge of European con-

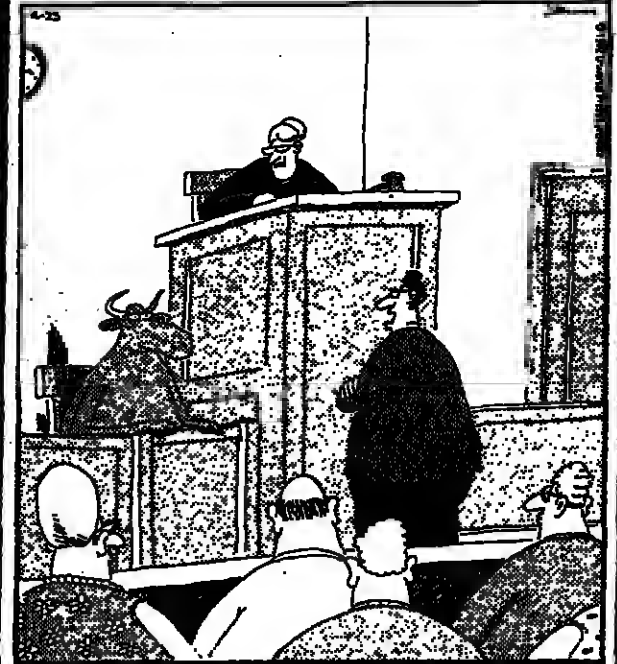
temporary art, said his European experience tremendously widened his view of what art is about. "I have come back home to impart my knowledge and experience, but here I'm not appreciated."

"When I lived abroad, I won much acclaim, many coveted awards and accolades, but here in my own country, I have been denied the State Art Award for too long because I don't believe in dishonesty."

He said he will continue to speak out until there is realistic perception of the situation of pioneers like himself, and until certain outdated social and cultural inhibitions which threaten genuine artistic creativity are done away with.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Look. We know how you did it — how is no longer the question. What we now want to know is why... Why now, brown cow?"



Helibillies



"And you! What's your story? ... If you ain't a mutineer, then what the hell are you?"



"I'm leaving you, Mitchell. You've never had tunnel vision; you never will."

Reminiscences from Poland

IN COOPERATION with the Goethe Institute, the Polish Embassy in Amman is taking this opportunity to display around 90 children's drawings.

The First Polish Children's Art Competition involved the majority of children from the Polish community in Jordan. It was organized jointly by the Polish Embassy and the Polish Women's Club which took place in December '95.

The competition was addressed mostly to children from mixed Polish-Jordanian families. Its main purpose was to enable children to exhibit their abilities, and to spread awareness of the importance of art in our lives and, to achieve a better understanding of Poland.

The creative production of the children included two main subjects "My best holiday," and "Reminiscences from Poland."

The children participating in the competition were aged between three and 17 and the jury was composed of two Jordanian artists, Mr Fuad Mimi and Mr Ibrahim Shalaby, as well as members of the Polish Embassy and the Polish Women's Club.

All the children's works were unique and reflected genuine memories and feelings, so all participants received prizes. Special diplomas were awarded to the winners of the first, second and third places in three age groups.

The exhibition will take place at the Goethe Institute starting March 25.

Jordanian singer introduces first album

JORDANIAN SINGER Murad 'Uweimrin has recently produced an album entitled *Habeebi* (my beloved) which will be distributed later this year on the markets of the Middle East and Jordan.

The album is made up of seven songs, one of which was written and composed in addition to being performed by 'Uweimrin.

He started singing at an early age in school choirs and concerts, and this interest has developed throughout the years. In September '95, the Jordanian singer Qusai Zureiqat discovered him during a test song entitled *Musafir* (Traveller).

The song was broadcast on Radio Monte Carlo and Radio Lebanon and was met with a highly encouraging response. It was after this event

that 'Uweimrin decided to take his singing a step further by recording his first album.

The lyrics for the album were written by Azzam Al Rassam, Yeh-yah Abu Taleh, Qusai Zureiqat and Riyad Shihadeh.

Composed by Qassem Sabounji, Ahmad Rami, Qusai Zureiqat and Amer Kiswani, the album is distributed by Ayman Abudallah the Managing Director of the recording studio, Al Funoon Center.

"I have always dreamt of reaching the hearts of people, but I know that I must work hard before I reach my ambition of becoming a famous name in the world of music," 'Uweimrin told The Star. He added "I can't evaluate my own album, I'll leave that to my listeners."

The album is made up of seven songs, one of which was written and composed in addition to being performed by 'Uweimrin.



OVERHEARD AT TURINO..

The Reader's Test???

OVERHEAD AT TURINO this time is taking another path by avoiding the mention of the gastronomic features of Turino Restaurant, Champs Elysees Cafe and the forthcoming opening of Chib's Upstairs, to test the effectiveness and the reach of this column to Star readers.

For visitors to Jordan, Turino is tucked around the main square of Sweifiyah on the Southern side of 6th circle.

This time we have a special offer for the readers of this column. Simple and old fashioned as it may sound, but still good value to the reader, Turino Restaurant has offered for the Reader's Test a prize of a free bottle of wine for a table of 4 (four) persons, with NO minimum charge. This offer is valid for guests who present this issue of *Overheard at Turino*.

The cuisine is basically Italian but the Turino Restaurant has now become famous for its *Sizzling Fillet and Exotic Sauces*.

Please call 863944 (ext. 31) for your reservation or to share your comments.

WE WILL APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK. WHAT EVER YOUR SOURCES ARE IN ORDER TO ALLOW US TO SERVE YOU BETTER.



AGENDA

Films

■ Dial M for Murder, at The American Center, Thursday, 21 March at 5:00 pm.
■ In a Brilliant Light-Van Gogh in Aries, at Darat Al-Funun, Thursday, 21 March at 5:30 pm.
■ HISTOIRE D'ADELE H at the French Culture Center, Monday, 25 March at 8 pm.
■ VIVEMENT DIMANCHE at the French Culture Center, Tuesday, 26 March at 6:30 pm.
■ Around the World in 80 Days, at the British Council, Tuesday, 26 March at 5 pm.

Exhibitions

■ The works of Hadia Tabri Muasher at Allia Art Gallery, starting on Monday, 25 March at 5 pm.
■ The works of Himat Mohammad Ali, entitled "Meditation" at Darat al-Funun, continue until 28 March.
■ The works of Faisal Al-Samra, at Darat Al-Funun, starting on Tuesday, until 31 March.
■ The works of Nawal Abdullah at the French Culture Center, continuing until 2 April.

MARCH 1996

A special section offering
fresh perspective on
global issues prepared for
The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



Third World on Third Avenue



Not in the Big Apple

Fault lines link Brooklyn to Bangladesh

By Sharen Hertel

THE WHINE of a single saxophone blends with the blare of hundreds of car horns, the belching of a city bus, the barking of a prissy Pekingese, the fragments of a thousand conversations among men and women going about their business on New York City's Third Avenue.

Uptown, the avenue cuts through tiny neighborhoods of boutiques selling everything from marzipan to muslin. Stately apartment buildings give way to quiet streets of sedate brownstones. Northward, the Third Avenue Bridge leaves behind Manhattan for the Bronx. Southward, a vacant lot shielded by a block's worth of plywood offers a montage of faded posters for plays and rock concerts, announcements of Nation of Islam rallies, and endless graffiti.

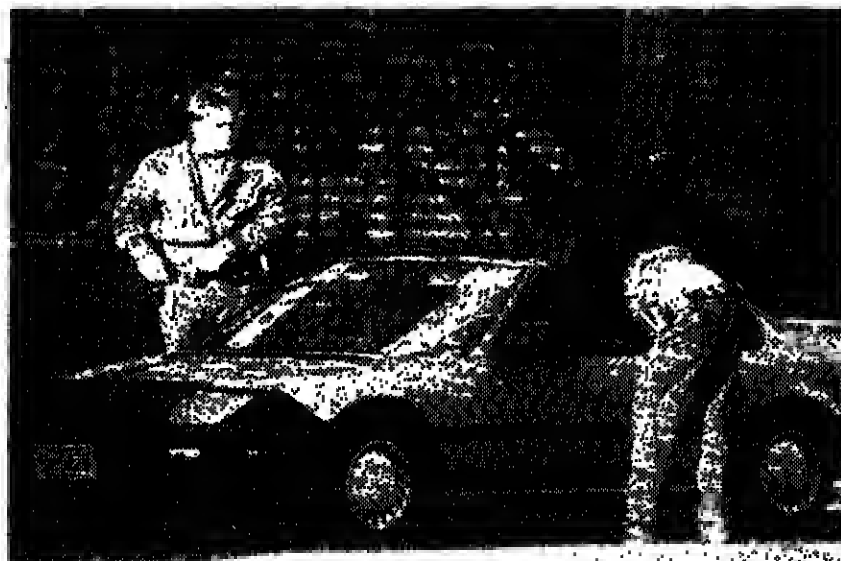
Near Manhattan's southern tip, Chinatown nestles in the shadow of the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges. Heading toward the junction of Third Avenue and Bowery, the smell of fish pierces air laden with the aroma of stale beer and diesel exhaust. The sounds and smells of Third Avenue represent but a sliver of New York City. Throughout the five boroughs, a crazy-quilt of neighborhoods is home to pockets of rich and poor people living within blocks of one another. Though their paths cross, many New Yorkers live moments yet worlds apart.

Random encounters, as tourist meets mental patient meets Wall Street financier, form the oft-garish mosaic of the city. What is the reality of New York City—its glittering lights and skyscrapers, or the cardboard shantytowns along the edges of the East and Hudson Rivers? Are the lights but a glimmering mirage above the surface of much deeper fault lines?

Consider the following: while restaurants in New York City serve tens of thousands of meals a day ranging in price from a few dollars to several hundred, some 800 food programs serve 9,000 free meals daily—and nearly 1,600 people are turned away each day when the food runs out. As recently as 1992, one in four New Yorkers was classified as poor; three-quarters of whom were either Black or Hispanic. More than half (53.4 percent) of the female-headed households in New York were headed by women without a high-school education; upwards of 90 percent of those had no formal work experience.

Poverty among children in New York City has become especially critical. In 1993, the number of poor children living in New York's five boroughs was almost twice the US average (38.5 percent in New York City versus 21 percent nationally). Today, some 43,000 New York City children are in

► FAULT LINES PAGE 2



The comparisons between New York's Third Avenue and the Third World are striking. In this visual essay for *The World Paper*, Associated Press photographer Matthew Roberts walked the streets of Phnom Penh and New York in search of images that capture this link



Urban poor swamped by economic high tide

By Crocker Snow Jr.

At once there was no more ramp, no more clean cordoned expressway. He was at ground level. It was as if he had fallen into a junkyard. He seemed to be underneath the expressway. In the blackness he could make out a cyclone fence over on the left... something caught in it.... A woman's head.... No, it was a chair with three legs and a burnt seat with the charred stuffing hanging out in great wads, rammed halfway through a cyclone fence.... Who on earth would jam a chair into the mesh of a cyclone fence? And why?

"Where are we, Sherman?" He could tell by the tone of her voice that there weren't going to be any more discussions of Christopher Marlowe or where to have dinner.

"We're in the Bronx." This defining scene in author Tom Wolfe's wonderful period piece about the 1980s, *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, has the hotshot stockbroker, Sherman McCoy, missing a turn at night on a New York expressway as he returns to the city from picking up

his mistress at Kennedy Airport. After straying with his \$48,000 Mercedes and her Gucci luggage into the bowels of the Bronx, McCoy and his lady friend panic, accidentally run over a black youth, and leave the scene—a few rash seconds that unravel McCoy's entire "master of the universe" existence. The contrast between McCoy's cushy, Park Avenue-entitled life and the netherworld of New York, with which he must contend and by which he is eventually defeated, is the dramatic liturgy of a book that defined a generation of Yuppie Americans.

This scene also mirrors the reality for much of our world today. The 1990s are a time when more countries are beginning to share the wealth of the post-industrial age, and more people are living better (albeit in a more populated world) than ever before; when an almost global "up from the masses" phenomenon is taking place. It's also a time when every demographer and economist observes a Malthusian-type dilemma in its modern form: more rich people mean more

poor people and somehow more extreme poverty across the board.

Tom Wolfe's "vanities" motif playing off the plight of the disadvantaged and desperate in the richest city on earth could be written over and over again. The homeless and healthless and jobless, the drug addicted or gang afflicted, are the shame and scourge of almost every big city in the western world.

It's the rich man's burden. Today, the very big cities like London and Los Angeles, Munich and Montreal, Sydney and Amsterdam, magnets for wealth and symbols of wealth creation, are havens for the homeless as well.

Not even the Japanese are exempt. In mid-January, Tokyo police were photographed evicting a crowd of 200 squatters who had long occupied an underground public walkway of the city's giant Shinjuku train and subway station. The confrontation and press attention highlighted the growing problem of social welfare in a country unaccustomed to worrying about it.

It's all very ironic. The number of Japanese homeless is increasing with the enriching of Japanese society overall. The gradual breakdown of Japan's unique lifetime employment practice is spawning a group of street people who are uncared for and unwanted and, in a society that cherishes social order, unwelcome.

It's difficult to draw the lines anymore. Certainly the homeless and disadvantaged in rich countries get more public attention and official compassion than the huddled masses in poor societies. But India, a country that symbolizes poverty for much of the world, has the fastest growing middle class in the world today. An acquaintance who attended a lavish Indian wedding in Bombay recently commented, "Having seen all this pomp and circumstance, not to speak of Mercedes (cars), I'm not sure any longer whether India is a poor country with a lot of rich people or a rich country with a lot of poor."

While the debate rages among political scientists and social engineers, while Newt Gingrich in Washington ministers the rich and Mother Teresa in Calcutta tends the poor, there is ample global evidence that as the rich get richer, the poor don't get any less poor.

Unhappily, the wishful social thinking that a rising tide lifts all boats does not apply to those with leaks below the waterline. Such boats do better when the tide stays out. ☺

CROCKER SNOW JR. IS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *The World Paper*.

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 23-29 March



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ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

2:00—Moomins
2:30—Wish Kid
3:00—Big Brother Jake
3:25—Blue Heelers
4:00—Tao
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Major Dad
8:00—Discover the Continent
8:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
9:10—A Fine Romance
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film: *Dan Turner Hollywood Detective*
11:50—Mancuso FBI

SUNDAY

2:00—The Flintstones
2:30—Disney's Aladdin
3:00—Mac and Muttley
3:25—The Peak Practice
4:10—Tao
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Baskerville P.D.
8:00—Cinema, Cinema
8:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
9:15—Women of the World
9:30—Murphy Brown
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Counterstrike
11:15—The American Chart Show
12:00—Forever Green

MONDAY

2:00—Bonkers
2:30—Richie Rich
3:00—Bush School
3:15—Playabout
3:30—Busting Loose
4:00—Animals of the Mediterranean
4:20—Tao
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs

TUESDAY

2:00—Captain Planet
2:30—Jonny Quest
2:50—Iris: the Happy Professor
3:00—The Bob Morrison Show
3:40—Scientific Eye
4:00—Tao
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Thunder Alley
8:00—Clive Anderson
8:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
9:10—Harry
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film: *Harold and Maude*, starring: Roth Gordon & Bud Oit
12:00—McMillan & Wife

WEDNESDAY

2:00—The Flintstones
2:30—Speed Racer
2:50—Dinosaurs
3:15—The Secret World of Alex Mack
3:35—Bill Nye the Science Guy
4:00—Tao
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Evening Shade
8:00—The Nature of Things
8:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
9:10—Q.E.D. A Song for Annie
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Airwolf
11:20—The Silk Road
12:30—Second Thoughts



Temples of the Gods, Monday at 9:10

THURSDAY

1:00—Aladdin
1:30—Treasure Island
2:00—My Secret Identity
2:20—NBA
3:45—Pirates
4:30—Gillette World Sport
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Carol and Company
8:00—The Album Show
8:45—Star Trek
9:30—Murphy Brown
10:00—News At Ten
10:25—Feature Film: *Vital Signs*, starring: Edward Asner
12:00—Matlock

FRIDAY

1:00—The Pebbles and Bamm Bamm Show
1:30—Iris the Happy Professor
1:40—See How They Grow
1:50—Bush School
2:10—Spider-Man
3:30—The Private Life of Plants
4:15—Wonder Why
4:35—Give Us a Clue
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs

7:30—News Headline
7:35—Short Story Cioema
8:00—Sea Quest
8:45—America's Funniest People
9:15—Widows
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Classic Movie: *Never Give an Inch*, starring: Paul Newman & Henry Fonda

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI
5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy
Cupid
5:30—Série
Extrême limite
«Traversée du désert»
6:00—Série
Château Valloir
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Faut pas rêver
«Pérou»

DIMANCHE
5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy
Geddon
5:30—Série
Extrême limite
«Monsieur innocent»
6:00—Magazine
Envoyé spécial
«Nuit d'une sec»
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

LUNDI
5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy
Geddon
5:20—Série
Extrême limite
«Au nom du père»
6:50—Magazine
Planète en équation
«Les fleuves français: le

Rhin et le Rhône
6:20—Divertissement
L'école des fans
«Marc Lavoine»
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine
Cinq sur cinq

MARDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy
Geddon
5:30—Série
Extrême limite
«La clandestine»
6:00—Magazine médical
Savoir plus santé
«Le retour de la tuberculose»
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine
Ushuala

MERCREDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Sophie et Virginie
5:30—Série
Renseignements généraux
«Aventurier à Berlin»
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine
Spens et musique

JEUDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Sophie et Virginie
5:30—Variétés
Taratata
«Toto»
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine
Archimède

VENDREDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Sophie et Virginie
5:30—Téléfilm
«La fille du roi»
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Allo la Terre
«Les nombres 3»

Programs are subject to change by JTV

Cinema

"A MOTHER'S PRAYER" (MCA/Universal, y). Linda Hamilton ("The Terminator") recently earned a CableACE Award for this drama, made for cable's USA Network, about a woman stunned by the news that she has tested HIV-positive. She then dedicates whatever time she has left to finding a new home for her son (Noah Fleiss); Kate Nelligan, Bruce Dern and actor-musician RuPaul also appear. ** (PG-13; AS, P)

"BRIAN WILSON: I JUST WASN'T MADE FOR THESE TIMES" (LIVE, y). The legendary member of the enduringly popular music group The Beach Boys is profiled in this documentary, originally shown on cable's Disney Channel and quite frank in its approach, not glossing over the personal problems that have affected Wilson's career. His daughters Camie and Wendy are seen performing with him. *** (Not rated; P)

HELD OVER: "THE NET" (Columbia/TriStar, y). Sandra Bullock had another star vehicle with this suspense-drama, casting her as a reclusive computer expert drawn into danger by a handsome and enigmatic stranger (Jeremy Northam). She ends up battling for her very existence in cyberspace, as members of a conspiracy who think she's learned too much try to erase her identity; Dennis Miller also appears. ** (PG-13; AS, P, V)

"ABOVE SUSPICION" (HBO, y). This drama's initial showing on HBO had sadly ironic timing, since it coincided with star Christopher Reeve's paralyzing horse-riding accident. He plays a policeman shot in the line of duty and paralyzed. When his wife (Kim Cattrall) then cheats on him — with his own brother, no less — he devises a plan to eliminate them, believing no one would ever suspect him. ** (Not rated; AS, P, V)

"AMANDA AND THE ALIEN" (Republic, y). Not seen much since her stint on "Baywatch," Nicole Eggert resurfaces in this fantasy, first shown on Showtime and offering sort of a comedic take on "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial." She plays a modern lady who meets up with an otherworldly being, one that's not quite as friendly; Michael Dorn ("Star Trek: The Next Generation") and Stacy Keach also star. ** (R; AS, P, V)

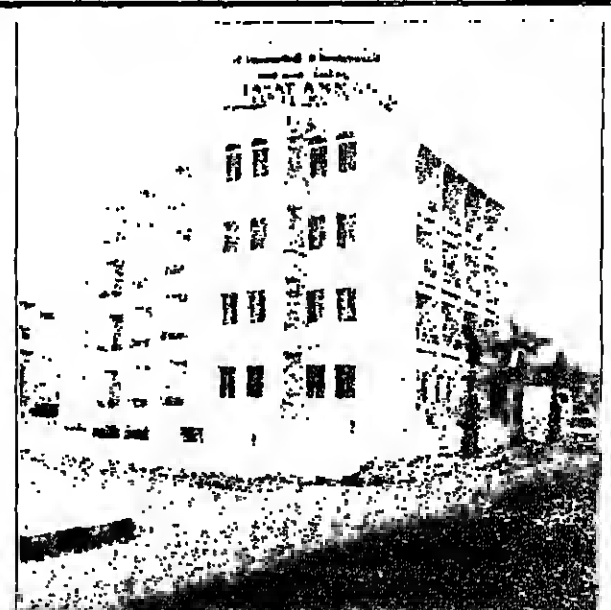
COMING SOON: "DESPERADO" (Columbia/TriStar, Jan. 30): Antonio Banderas plays the weapons-skilled anti-hero in director Robert Rodriguez' remake of his own "El Mariachi." (R)

"SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT" (Warner, Jan. 30): A woman (Julia Roberts) takes decisive action against her husband's (Dennis Quaid) widely known infidelity. (R)

"THE BIG GREEN" (Disney, Jan. 31): Sort of a "Mighty Ducks" of soccer, this comedy casts Steve Guttenberg as the coach of another team of underdogs. (PG)

FAMILY-VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence.

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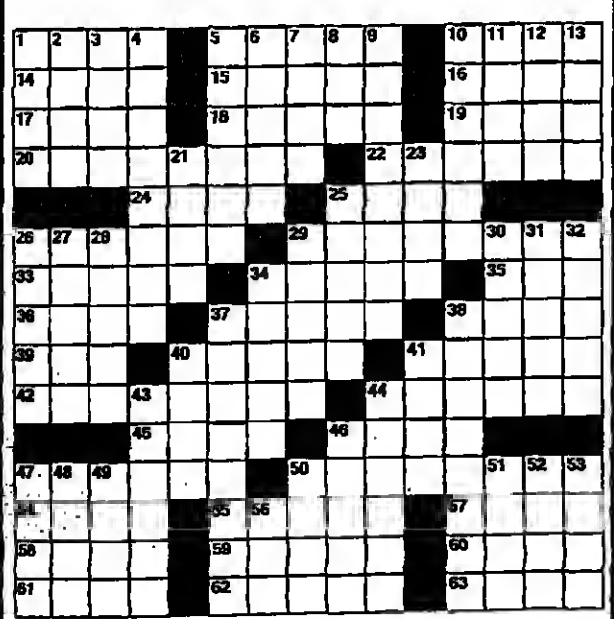
Hayat Amman Hotel

Excellent services to valued customers

● HAYAT AMMAN Hotel which opened recently in offers excellent services to its valued customers. The hotel consists of 18 suites, each of features a living room, equipped with satellite TV (22 channels), a private telephone line, a living room which extends to a spacious dining room, and a fully equipped kitchen. There are three sizes of suites, with one, two and three bedrooms. Each suite has a bathroom, a store room, and a balcony. The hotel contains a large lobby for customers, a visitors' reception, an oriental restaurant, comfortable elevators, fire alarm detection, a fire fighting system, and sufficient parking space for residents' and visitors' cars. The Hotel provides 24 hour services (room cleaning, laundry, and room services). Secretarial services are provided in our business center as well. Hayat Amman is currently in the process of constructing two swimming pools (out door and in door), a health club, a ladies hairstyle salon, a gift shop, car rental services and a coffee shop with a beautiful view.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1 Large Volume
5 Social rank
10 School groups
14 Peak
15 Poplar with fluttering leaves
16 Predicament
17 Tub event
18 Whirling sound
19 A King
20 Encased
22 Published
24 Legal holding
25 Dull pain
26 Severe
30 Mischievous act
34 Minded
35 Moving vehicle
36 Circle
37 Harbors
38 Shed
39 Highest card
40 Pacific island
41 Wait on
42 Put-and-take top
43 Actor
45 God of war
46 Castle ditch
47 Pestle's partner
50 Clear
54 News notice
55 Loop
57 Ireland
58 Move indolently
59 Alfred the psychologist
60 Nicker
61 Remove, in printing
62 Ogle
63 Digits
64 Hindu queen
65 Glance off
66 Elephant's task
67 Mechanical device
68 Go in
69 Roman god of revelry
70 Garden
71 Fatherly
72 Thrice, mus.
73 Adoms
74 Strip of wood
75 Most solid
76 Shore bird
77 Tail tales
78 Tough questions
79 Sias
80 Memer, e.g.
81 Watch sound
82 Discard
83 Largest artery
84 Small herring
85 Instant
86 Streamlet
87 Apportion
88 Spanish boy
89 Indian
90 Golf pegs
91 Poem

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— THIS WEEK'S —

HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Tackle technical subjects, with the sun in Aquarius. If you need a tutor, hire a good-looking one.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Finish up something you promised. No more excuses! If you're having trouble with difficult material, ask your friends to help.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Consult a more experienced friend regarding romance. You may get spurred into action. An assignment you've been avoiding is coming due!

Gemini (May 21-June 21). You may have trouble with one of your assignments. It's not that you don't understand, it's that you don't want to do it!

Cancer (June 22-July 22). A foreigner could teach you an important lesson. Learn from the other person's experience.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Work hard to make the money you need. That could also impress an attractive person.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have way too much to do. But you don't need to be so tense! Let a fanciful friend bring joy into your life.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll learn best by watching and working with an expert. A rowdy friend's challenge could lead to excitement.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're lucky in love. You should get just about whatever you want! Reconfirm the data you're using, too.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Spend more time at home or in your room. Somebody with a problem may try to reach you there. Don't goof around with a difficult assignment.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're plagued by annoying little mistakes and breakdowns. Use them to help you practice perseverance. An attractive friend can help you learn, but you'll have to ask.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're smart but you have to be careful. Consider a dear friend's feelings. Also be stingy with your money.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Your affectionate gesture should be well received. Don't go out and spend all your money. That would not be wise.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Learn to give to your loved ones this year, and you'll receive even more in return. That means gifts, as well as affection.

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Bridge

EACH TRICK IN ITS TIME
By Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ K J 5

♥ K 5

♦ A K 9 7 6

♣ 10 7 6

WEST

♠ Q 10 9 4

♥ 8 3

♦ Q J 8 2

♣ Q 8 2

SOUTH

♠ A 8 6

♥ 10 7 6 2

♦ 3

♣ A K J 9 4

The bidding:

North East South West

1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass

2♥ Pass 2NT Pass

3NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

This deal is from a team match. The contract and lead were identical at the two tables. One declarer made the contract. The other was defeated, and there was nothing that declarer could do to alter the outcome.

South had a rebid problem. To introduce hearts at the two-level would have overstated the quality of South's second suit and complicated an auction

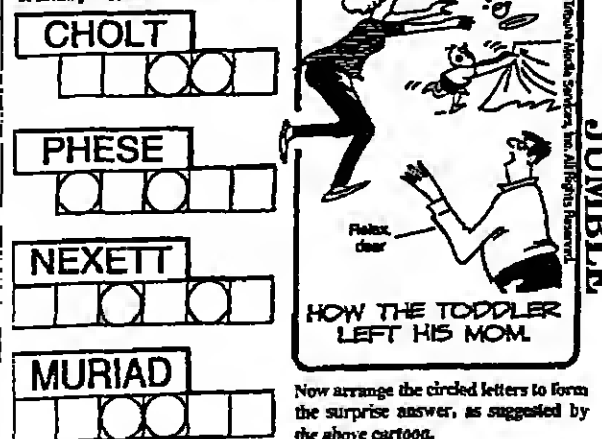
that was already on thin ice because of the potential misfit. Two no trump was a sensible compromise, and North's raise to game was clear cut.

Understandably reluctant to lead away from a queen, West struck a gigantic blow for the defenders by selecting the eight of hearts for the opening salvo. Declarer played low from dummy, East won with the jack, cashed the ace and continued with the queen of hearts. South's ten was a stopper and, even though the club finesse failed, declarer coasted home with nine tricks.

At the other table East took some time before playing to the first trick. It was most unlikely that South had bid no trump without a reasonable semblance of a heart stopper. Since it seemed that the defenders were going to need four heart tricks to defeat the contract, East elected to allow for the possibility that West's lead was the top of a doubleton, and simply signalled encouragement by playing the nine.

Even with the heart trick in the bag, declarer had only seven fast tricks — eight if the spade finesse succeeded. The only chance to get home was to hope that the club finesse was right so, after cashing the king of clubs, declarer crossed to dummy with a high diamond and ran the club ten. West won and reverted to hearts — down one.

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: CHOLT PHESE NEXETT MURIAD

Answers: CLOTH SHEEP EXTENT RADIUM

SLAPSTIX
I couldn't wait for success ... so I went ahead without it.

Words of Wisdom

Success has an odd side effect of memory loss. Suddenly it's hard to remember all those who helped along the way.

He who hesitates is sometimes the smartest one in the office.

Your word is free to give, but it's one of the most valuable things you own.

Loyalty can only be earned, not bought.

Many people find that the harder they work, the luckier they get.

Time is a thorough and demanding teacher and the best you'll ever have.

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

La Jordanie se rapproche de l'Union européenne

● Selon le ministre jordanien de l'Information, Marwan Mouasher (notre photo), la Jordanie est sur le point de conclure un accord de partenariat avec l'Union européenne. « Nous avons fait des progrès dans nos négociations avec l'Union européenne, et nous répondons à la majorité des critères d'éligibilité à l'aide » a déclaré cette semaine M. Mouasher au cours d'une rencontre avec la presse. La signature d'un accord de partenariat permettrait à la Jordanie d'obtenir une partie des 60 milliards de francs (8,6 milliards de JD) promis sur cinq ans par l'Union européenne aux pays du Proche-Orient et d'Afrique du Nord. M. Mouasher, qui pense qu'un ou deux rounds de négociations seront nécessaires pour la signature de cet accord, espère atteindre cet objectif avant le mois de juin. Le précédent protocole financier entre l'UE et la Jordanie couvrait la période allant de 1991 à 1996 pour un montant d'environ 750 millions de francs (environ 107 millions de JD).



SELON

Qu'il semble

loin le temps où les Jordaniens se passionnaient pour les œuvres de littérature et de poésie française. Voilà trente ans, les librairies d'Amman étaient encore gorgées de romans d'Alexandre Dumas, de Victor Hugo et de tant d'autres livres traduits en arabe à Beyrouth ou bien au Caire.

Le collier de la reine n'avait pas de secret pour nous. Nous connaissions Notre-Dame et le Louvre, nos rêves nous conduisant de Vannes à Belle-Île en compagnie de ce courageux mousquetaire vêtu d'une soutane. Nous détestions les Thénardiens et pleurons les malheurs de Cosette. Nous maudissions la société et la maladie qui ont réduit en miettes la vie de la ravissante « Dame aux camélias ». Très jeunes, on nous apprenait le respect d'un certain Charles de Gaulle, dont la mort provoquait en nous une grande tristesse. Au cœur de ce pays très anglophone, une certaine francophonie s'était installée.

Quelques années plus tard, en découvrant Paris pour la première fois, nous restions éblouis de Versailles et le talent de Gustave Eiffel, en oubliant presque les splendeurs nées en Orient. Puis, la place de la Concorde et le spectacle des Champs-Élysées effaçaient doucement de nos mémoires le souvenir de la sœur jumelle qui défie héroïquement l'Histoire depuis quarante siècles sous le soleil de Louxor.

Par la suite, tandis que la France appliquait dans la région une « politique de princes », la « rambomania » et la « jacksonmanita » étaient administrées à nos enfants dans leurs biberons. C'est alors que naquit l'idée en France de conquérir certains pays, y compris la Jordanie, en imposant la francophonie comme miraculeuse thérapie.

Quinze ans après, le bilan est hélas décevant car les promoteurs de cette idée ont misé sur la langue seule pour y parvenir en omettant le rôle primordial de la culture.

En tournant le regard vers la France, les Jordaniens espèrent trouver dans cette grande nation, mère de la culture moderne, un remède efficace à leurs enfants d'éviter le déchirement entre le vide intellectuel et la dureté de la société moderne. Hélas, la France dont ils rêvaient, et qu'ils ont jadis connue, ne ressemble en rien à celle qu'on leur propose. Elle leur paraît étrangère cette France dans laquelle Vanessa Paradis remplace Madame de Staël, San Antonio prend la relève de Molière et Jacques Pradel se déguise en Jean Valjean.

Aujourd'hui, on ne peut pas qualifier la Jordanie de pays francophone, ni de pays francophile comme par le passé. Il paraît grand temps de redresser la situation et d'essayer d'imposer dans ce pays une nouvelle stratégie fondée sur un renouveau de la France telle que les Jordaniens l'ont connue, et non pas une France artificielle peinte de fausses valeurs qui risquent de provoquer une réaction de francophobie.

Suhail Al Sweis

Une journée mondiale pour la langue française

Quarante-neufs Etats, soit 400 millions de personnes, étaient appelées hier à célébrer la journée de la francophonie. L'occasion de s'intéresser à la place que le français occupe en Jordanie à travers deux aspects différents: l'enseignement de cette langue dans les écoles publiques du pays, et la publication d'une revue littéraire arabo-francophone.

Le français ne fait pas école

Curieux de découvrir la culture et la langue française, certains élèves tentent d'apprendre le français dans les écoles publiques. Mais ils ne sont pas beaucoup aidés dans leur démarche.

Choisie par le ministre de l'Éducation pour être la deuxième langue étrangère, le français, faute de moyens, a du mal à trouver sa place dans les écoles publiques. « C'est en 1965 que le ministère de l'Éducation a signé un accord avec l'ambassade de France pour lancer l'enseignement de cette langue dans les écoles publiques », explique Abir Amouri, responsable de la langue française au département des manuels scolaires du ministère de l'Éducation.

En 1965, l'enseignement est devenu optionnel pour les deux classes secondaires, l'équivalent du lycée. À partir de 1993, suite à la réforme du système éducatif, le français est resté facultatif mais il a été introduit un peu plus tôt dans le cursus scolaire, dès le collège en 8ème, 9ème ou 10ème classe. « Cela veut dire qu'il y a pratiquement cinq années d'apprentissage du français », ajoute Abir Amouri.

Il y a quatorze écoles publiques réparties dans trois villes (Irbid, Zarqa et Amman) qui enseignent le français, à raison de deux écoles par gouvernorat. Ainsi à Amman, quatre écoles donnent trois cours par semaine pour les classes de 8ème, 9ème et 10ème (les élèves ayant entre 13 et 16 ans) et deux cours par semaine pour les classes du secondaire. Ces cours optionnels peu nombreux ne permettent pas aux élèves motivés d'apprendre le français, faute de moyens. « On ne peut pas augmenter le nombre des écoles qui enseignent le français à cause d'un manque de professeurs et aussi de livres, qui sont généralement un don de l'ambassade de France », explique Abir Amouri.

Multiplier les classes de français n'est possible que si le nombre d'élèves désireux d'apprendre cette langue augmente. Or, on constate un manque de motivation, souvent dû à

l'absence d'orientation vers cette langue. Beaucoup ne savent pas que le français peut leur servir pour trouver un emploi dans le domaine du tourisme ou de l'interprétariat.

Peu de motivation D'ailleurs, dans les écoles d'hôtellerie, le français est devenu un cours obligatoire pour la 10ème classe. « Avec l'ouverture de la Jordanie vers la France et les pays francophones, il fallait renforcer l'orientation vers le français, la signature de la paix aidant à la promotion du tourisme », explique Hayat Alamati, enseignante de français qui a participé avec plusieurs professeurs à l'élaboration d'un livre en français pour l'hôtellerie (Le français fonctionnel de l'hôtellerie).

« Dans ce livre, nous avons respecté la philosophie de l'Éducation Nationale tout en essayant de mettre l'accent sur les centres d'intérêt des étrangers qui viennent en Jordanie », explique Hayat Alamati. « Bref, tous les livres d'enseignement du français viennent de France et les élèves peuvent se

sentir un peu perdus car le contenu est loin des réalités jordaniennes ».

Assez difficile, la langue française décourage aussi beaucoup d'élèves. « La curiosité incite les élèves à choisir cette langue, car ils aiment son rythme chantant et la civilisation qu'elle représente », ajoute Al Huda, enseignante à l'école publique de Soukkinah. « Mais après quelque temps, ils arrêtent d'assister aux cours à cause des difficultés rencontrées ».

N'étant qu'un enseignement facultatif, le français ne pousse en effet pas toujours à faire des efforts. D'autant que, selon Hayat Alamati, certains directeurs d'écoles ne prennent pas toujours cette matière au sérieux.

Or, ce soutien est primordial pour le développement de la langue française à l'école. Tout comme la création de débouchés pour les francophones. C'est en tout cas ainsi, selon Hayat Alamati, que « le français pourra s'épanouir dans la région ».

Oroub El Abed



Le français a du mal à s'imposer dans les écoles publiques, loin derrière l'anglais et bien sûr l'arabe.

Société

Entre diplôme étranger et piston

Pour les jeunes diplômés jordaniens à la recherche d'un premier emploi, la situation est actuellement des plus difficiles: un tiers des sans-emploi est en effet constitué de diplômés universitaires.

Le problème du chômage qui touche aujourd'hui chaque nouveau diplômé s'accroît rapidement. Pour les jeunes sans emploi, la situation devient de plus en plus difficile. D'autant plus que les raisons avancées par les employeurs pour refuser un poste ne leur laissent pas beaucoup d'espoir.

Faire ses études à l'étranger reste en effet un gage de qualité. « J'ai présenté mon CV à un chef d'entreprise », explique Lina, diplômée en finances. « Il a refusé de me donner le poste pour deux raisons: parce que je suis une femme et parce que je n'ai pas de diplôme obtenu à l'étranger ».

Omar, diplômé en gestion, a lui aussi été surpris par les réponses du gérant d'un grand hôtel lors d'un entretien d'embauche. « J'ai été surpris de constater qu'il n'avait même pas jeté un coup d'œil à mon CV. Je croyais qu'il était à la recherche d'une personne formée à la gestion, mais il m'a gentiment montré le bar en me disant que je pourrais commencer ma carrière comme barman ».

Un peu déboussolés par ces réponses, beaucoup de diplômés cherchent alors à compléter leur formation pour mieux répondre aux demandes des employeurs. A l'instar de Suzanne, diplômée en psychologie, qui cherchait à entrer dans une association internationale en Jordanie. Devant

le refus des responsables qui lui reprochaient de ne pas être titulaire d'un diplôme de maîtrise obtenu à l'étranger, elle a décidé de contacter le bureau des bourses scolaires pour éventuellement poursuivre ses études. « Mais là, ils m'ont répondu qu'il me fallait au moins cinq années d'expérience professionnelle pour y avoir droit ».

Les diplômés après les passe-droits

Du côté des entreprises, s'il n'existe pas de critères d'embauche réellement définis, beaucoup de patrons avouent préférer un diplôme obtenu à l'étranger. « Je préfère les diplômés de l'étranger car ils possèdent bien souvent beaucoup plus de connaissances », concède le directeur d'une banque. Fawez Samara, chef de service dans l'entreprise « Systèmes informatiques et communication », avoue avoir la même tendance. « J'ai un penchant pour les diplômés de l'étranger car ils me paraissent avoir de meilleures dispositions. Mais chaque embauche dépend bien sûr de l'entretien préalable ».

Être une femme représente aussi bien souvent un obstacle à l'embauche. « Dans la finance, on préfère employer des hommes », explique le directeur d'une entreprise locale. « Les femmes mariées ont beaucoup de responsabilités, et les femmes célibataires sont toujours chez leurs parents. Je

souhaite que mes employés soient disponibles pour leur travail, ce qui est plus souvent le cas avec les hommes ».

Si les employeurs semblent apprécier les cursus étrangers, ils n'adoptent pas pour autant les méthodes d'embauche utilisées ailleurs. « A l'étranger, la sélection est plus scientifique et plus égale », reconnaît un chef d'entreprise qui a lui-même travaillé hors des frontières jordaniennes. « Les règles sont floues, et on est sûr que la bonne personne se trouve à la bonne place ».

Un autre phénomène fausse les règles du marché du travail en Jordanie: « le piston », appelé « wasta ». Un grand nombre de jeunes travaille dans des domaines qui ne correspondent pas à leurs spécialisations. Des postes qu'ils n'obtiennent que grâce à leurs relations. Une situation qui, selon le directeur d'une entreprise jordanienne, a tendance à se développer dans le pays. « La plupart des gens embauchés ces derniers temps dans mon entreprise l'ont été par « wasta » ».

Pour les jeunes diplômés, la situation devient donc très compliquée. Car même s'ils possèdent les compétences requises, ils ne peuvent pas dire sûrs de trouver un emploi en raison des passe-droits accordés à une certaine catégorie de la population.

Rania Nunu

Journée de la francophonie

Un certain dialogue par l'écriture

La revue «...en attendant» se propose d'être une tribune pour des écrivains francophones et arabes peu ou jamais publiés. Une publication permettant de réunir des auteurs de cultures différentes qui se rejoignent dans leurs écrits.

«L'interaction et le dialogue avec autrui (...) entre deux langues enracinées.» Est-ce vraiment en cela que consiste l'importance de cette publication franco-arabe, intitulée «...en attendant»?

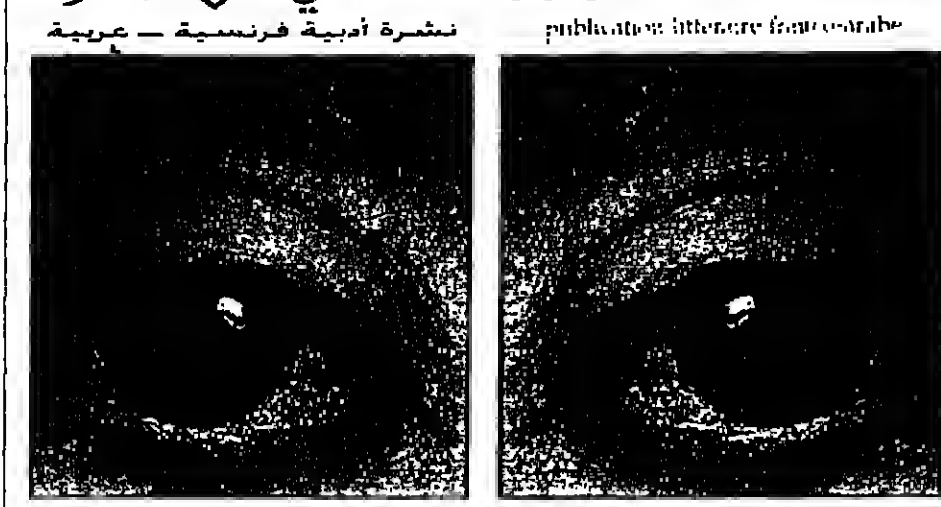
En attendant quoi? Godot, qui s'éloigne toujours après les guerres atroces? Ou bien en attendant les poèmes qui ne sont pas écrits, tels ceux de Jean Demo, décrits par Ahmad N'Sour dans sa nouvelle « Jean Demo, poète d'un seul poème ».

«...Neuf guerres mondiales destructrices: notre monde avait changé», déclare Ahmad N'Sour en s'inspirant, pour bâtir sa nouvelle, du cas exceptionnel du poète irakien qui tourne et vagabonde, toujours ivre, dans les rues et les bars d'Amman. Deux guerres, trois, quatre, ... neuf, Ahmad N'Sour oppose la destruction et la poésie, arrivant à la conclusion résignée et absurde: «Ainsi, la maîtresse absolue, la plus belle de la planète, n'a jamais pu lire le poème de Jean».

Expression d'un monde écri-sé, comme le rêve des amants «sous les poutres de l'autobus» dans le poème de l'irakien Fadel Jawad. Il ne reste dans ce monde détruit que «des yeux qui surveillent» et deux hommes qui se battent pour une femme, non pour l'honneur et l'aimer, mais pour l'abuser.

Une certaine désillusion qui explique peut-être la mélancolie lyrique que l'on retrouve dans les poèmes du Jordanien Marwan Hamdan. Ce jeune poète qui se déclare «au volume de l'écriture», évoque l'éternelle tragédie du poète en abordant l'éternelle question: «est-ce qu'il se repose?». Une question à laquelle il répond indirectement en terminant par ces

... en attendant



Le deuxième numéro de la revue franco-arabe «...en attendant» vient de paraître. Une publication réalisée avec le soutien des services culturels de l'ambassade de France.

poèmes: «il pleure». Dans ce texte, Marwan Hamdan, du main jusqu'à la nuit, de la voix exquise du chuchotement jusqu'aux pleurs, dessinant dans le miroir les traits humains d'un poète. Malheureusement, cette extrême du recueil, à perdu beaucoup de son style et de son originalité dans la version française.

«Une même maison humaine» Si la mélancolie, l'écrasement et la déception chez les jeunes écrivains arabes peuvent s'expliquer par les événements du siècle et les réalités naissantes de l'après-guerre du Golfe, que dire de cette nouvelle bourée de mots tels que vomir, écaré, suicide, obscur,

mod, déception, du Français. Siéphan Ferry? Ou bien du poème de son compatriote, Alexis Fina, qui s'attaque «au cimetière des vivants» et crie «je n'ai plus envie de rien, quelle tristesse».

Est-ce l'angoisse héritée de Sartre ou bien une autre, différente, relevant d'un monde privé d'enfance? «Combien de jours à vivre sans enfants» se demande le jeune poète.

Est-ce une crise qui touche tous les jeunes, un tunnel dans lequel ils s'engouffrent? Quelque chose de commun qui se répand non seulement autour de la Méditerranée où des civilisations millénaires, qui ont donné naissance à la civilisation humaine, sont appelées à se rencontrer, mais partout dans le monde.

Ce dont semble en tout cas témoigner le poème du Sénégalais Béchir Tamsir Niare qui décrit une jeunesse «décapitée sur le plateau colonial».

Une certaine similitude qui paraît logique au yeux du grand poète Adonis, qui dans la préface de «...en attendant», explique que «la langue créative (...) n'est, en fin de compte, qu'une seule et même maison humaine» dans laquelle s'affirment les désirs des jeunes d'instaurer «le dialogue et l'interaction».

Hayat al Hoayek Attyé

«...en attendant», livre 1. Revue disponible au Centre culturel français, au service culturel français, à la librairie Philadelphie. Prix: 1 JD.

Exposition

Nawal Abdullah: «Je suis née pour peindre»

Pour Nawal Abdullah, artiste jordanienne, la peinture fait partie depuis toujours de son existence. Elle expose actuellement ses œuvres au Centre culturel français, présentant à cette occasion pour la première fois des tableaux de grande taille.

Depuis les premiers moments de son existence, Nawal Abdullah vit avec l'art. Aussi loin qu'elle se souvienne, l'art a toujours occupé ses pensées.

«Toute ma vie, j'ai senti que j'étais née pour peindre...! C'est pour cela que j'ai commencé ma carrière artistique. Au début, j'ai suivi le chemin de la peinture traditionnelle, pour ensuite, en 1974, intégrer l'Ecole des Beaux-Arts de Florence, jusqu'en 1978. Ce que je conserve de cette période, c'est le temps que j'ai passé à observer, regarder en détail toutes les œuvres qui étaient à ma portée, pour découvrir l'art en général. Ainsi, les portraits

que j'ai réalisés à une certaine époque étaient influencés par Modigliani ».

Elle reconnaît avoir eu la chance de vivre sa passion. «Savoir peindre est une chose. Pouvoir mettre en pratique ce savoir en est une autre. J'ai eu la chance de disposer des moyens économiques nécessaires pour étudier et suivre ma carrière». Des contraintes matérielles qui, selon elle, expliquent un certain assèchement de la production des peintres dans la région.

Aujourd'hui, la peinture de Nawal Abdullah présente une combinaison harmonieuse de couleurs, donnant un rythme naturel à sa peinture, exprimant son être spontané, ouvert et libre.

Les couleurs employées, la force des tons, correspondent aux différentes périodes de la vie de l'artiste.

Concernant la notion d'espace, Nawal Abdullah, suit une évolution qui a commencé avec de petits tableaux. «Je me sentais plus à l'aise sur des toiles de petites tailles». Ensuite, avec le temps, son pinceau a pris plus de liberté. «Je profite de cette exposition pour présenter des tableaux de plus grande taille».

Son œuvre s'apparente au courant de l'abstraction lyrique, né il y a près d'un demi-siècle, qui comptait parmi ses fondateurs français Soulages, Schneder, Mathieu, Ripelle ou Hanai. Selon le critique américain Harold Rosenberg, ce courant

artistique avait pour but l'expression sur la toile «d'un contenu métaphysique» que l'existence de l'artiste, ex-celant toute valeur politique ou morale.

C'est bien cette démarche que suit Nawal Abdullah, en avançant que sa seule source d'inspiration est sa propre existence.

Installée professionnellement sur sa terre natale, Nawal, à travers ses toiles, renforce les liens amoureux qui la lient à son pays et à sa famille. En outre, elle est une influence. Après l'artiste, elle est de toute façon inconsciente et nourrie de son expérience passée et présente du monde dans lequel elle évolue.

Marcel Dedenis



Pour cette exposition au Centre culturel français, Nawal Abdullah a décidé de présenter des tableaux de plus grande taille.

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Cinéma

Fin du cycle François Truffaut

«Histoire d'Adèle H» le 25/03 à 20h00 au Centre culturel français.
«Vivement dimanche» le 26/03 à 18h30 à la fondation Shoman.

Peinture

Jusqu'au 02/04, exposition au CCF des œuvres de Nawal Abdullah, artiste apparentée au mouvement de l'abstraction lyrique (voir article ci-dessus).

Activities

Royal Cultural Centre	6610267	Concord Cinema	677420
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Goethe Institute	641993		
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Badana Art Gallery	657132		
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	675571		
Nabil & Hisham's Theatre	625155		

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Royal Shooting Club	736572
Royal Chess Club	673713
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Energy & Mineral Resources	815615	Public Works & Housing	668481
Finance	636321	Social Development	673191
Foreign Affairs	644361	Supplies	602121
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Canadian	666124
Chilean	823360
Cyprus Honorary Cons	677559
Czech	671813/666135
Danish Consulate Gen	603703
Finnish Consulate	824654/824676
French	641273/4
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THE STAR'S WORKING COMPUTING & HIGH TECH NOTES

Edited by Zeid Nasser

The Internet introduces new advertising and marketing opportunities for Middle East business: An era of e-commerce

INTERNET IS the single most exciting development in communications and computing. Some believe that it is causing a kind of revolution equivalent to the launch of the personal computer.

The real, unmatched power of the Internet lies in its accessibility to the tens of millions of users around the world. The result has been around 45 million users on the Net to date.

Just imagine. Millions of people, navigating the Internet, looking for new items of interest. It's an advertiser's heaven.

Arabia On-Line, with its expertise in utilizing the resources offered by the Internet, aims to introduce Arab and Middle Eastern business to this world of electronic commerce.

The Internet's impact on business is already very apparent, with thousands of business transactions taking place all over the world on the Internet everyday. With thousands of sellers and buyers already on the Internet, Arabia On-Line can offer you a golden opportunity to catch the Internet boom and get to all those Middle Eastern buyers.

How? There are a number of ways. For starters, you can reserve an advertising position on E-Arabia, the Arab city in cyberspace with buildings each providing the user with different types of information and entertainment.

E-Arabia, the first service of its kind, is where users interested in creating links with the Arab World electronically are meeting. As a matter of fact, E-Arabia has been visited every week by over 250,000 interested individuals so far and the number is growing by

the week. If you're involved in the media business, you'll be pleased to know that Arabia On-Line can carry your magazine, newspaper or news wire service to a potential of 45 million readers. It's an excellent medium to reach new audiences and could be quite profitable if you sell subscriptions

promoting and selling traditional gifts and handicrafts, you can reserve your space at the Market in E-Arabia where you can display your products in an attractive way and actually sell to customers using their credit card numbers. Once you try this sales channel, you will realize how much you're actually saving compared to traditional marketing and sales costs.

As an added touch, and to promote cultural exchange on the best and most interactive medium for such exchange, Arabia On-Line has opened the door for cultural and information centers at the Culture & Art Center in E-Arabia. It's an excellent place for thousands of users

to look up the agendas of cultural activities at a variety of centers all over the Middle East. Remember, if you act now, you'll be there before your competitors and you'll get your message across to those millions of users on the Internet.

To achieve the reach offered by Arabia On-Line, contact Ms. Hadeel Rashid at Media Concepts' offices on telephone number ++ 962 6 650444, fax number ++ 962 6 650888 or email ame@arabia.com. Also, if you would like to check out Arabia On-Line to explore the contents of E-Arabia, log into address: <http://arabia.com> on the WorldWideWeb.

For companies and individuals interested in

Have you noticed:
Everyone is talking about the Internet and on-line services. The Workstation page is turning into the forum for these topics. Fax us on 648298 or email us at Star@NETS.com. Join with your views. We and our readers want to know them.



Arab Institute for Banking holds Internet workshop: Demonstrating the benefits of the Internet

THE ARAB Institute for Banking & Financial Studies held a workshop about the Internet on 7 March, to explain the uses and benefits to be gained from this international network.

The workshop was sponsored by Black Box, the US-based company that produces data communication products, which was represented by Mr. Youssef Al Alami, President of OI Vision.

At the event, there were specialist guest-speakers and participants from a number of organizations including the Arab Bank, University of Jordan, Business Optimization Consultants (B.O.C.), Arabian Office Automation and others. In addition, of course, to

information system specialists and managers from the Arab Institute.

Mr. Sami Al Taher, a Black Box Internet expert, explained and summarized the many uses of this worldwide network and discussed topics including Mailing Lists, email, File Transfer Protocol, E-Addresses, Internet Card Catalogue, Telnet, Archie Database, Usenet, World Wide Web, Veronica, Wide Area Information Services and various Internet tools.

Mr. Osama Anquod of Business Optimization Consultants (B.O.C.) explained the feasibility of advertising and promotion opportunities available on the Internet and

possibilities the Internet opens for print media to reach a wider audience. He also discussed the many benefits of exposure to be gained by Jordanian businesses, carrying their message to the international market.

This educational seminar provided a brief look at the training courses offered at the Black Box Laboratory in the Arab Institute for Banking & Financial Studies, which are held on a monthly basis. Training is jointly sponsored by Sprint and Black Box.

The laboratory is equipped with the latest modems and communication-networking products and serves the Middle East and North Africa regions.

STS and Sun Microsystems give a seminar at the Marriott Hotel: Internet—Your gateway to the world

SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL Services (STS), in cooperation with Sun Microsystems, held a seminar at the Marriott Hotel on 'Internet—Your Gateway to the World'.

Mr. Ramzi Zeine, General Manager of STS, discussed the services offered by his company to connect organizations to the Internet, utilizing Sun Internet Server, and explained that these systems are already in use at leading Jordanian organizations including the National Information Center, the Central Bank of Jordan, Jordan Mobile Telephone Services and others.

Mr. Ramez Dindin, Marketing Manager of Sun Middle East, was one of the guest speakers who talked about the history of the Internet and its uses in the fields of finance, trade, education and entertainment.

He said that 60% of the Web servers in use worldwide are made by Sun. Also from Sun Middle East, was Mr. Sho Win, Support Manager, who discussed the means used by companies to connect to the Internet.

He also highlighted the features of Java, the popular Internet software introduced by

Sun and which was recently licensed by IBM, Microsoft and NetScape.

Local guest speakers included Ms. Hiba Al Majali, of Computer & Engineering Bureau (CEB), who spoke about the Oracle Web Server and Mr. Majdi Shweesh, of Sprint Jordan, who discussed the nature of the Internet service to be offered by Sprint to the Jordanian public.

The seminar attracted a huge number of participants which was a clear sign of the popularity of Internet topics among Jordanians.

News update

Satellite communication helps treat patients in Jordan and Lebanon

American Telemedicine International (ATI) has announced the start of its operations in both Jordan and Lebanon.

Jordan is the first country to inaugurate a medical satellite station, at a cost of \$2.3 million, called Hashem 1, providing full audio and video communications.

Through a satellite link between Mayo Clinic in Massachusetts and Al Hussein Medical City in Amman, diagnosis for cases can be provided by doctors in the USA, and sent to doctors in Jordan.

In Lebanon, health insurance companies may request a second medical opinion from ATI, by which specialists at Massachusetts Hospital provide

consultation on cases in Lebanon, via satellite link.

These developments are in line with ATI's aims to build the largest communications network in the medical field, to serve the different needs of patients all over the world. This network will also assist in teaching medical sciences.

Sun's revenues are on the increase

Sun's operation in the Middle East has witnessed a marked growth in revenue of 50% in the second quarter of the current financial year, ending 31 December, 1995.

This success in the Middle East reflects Sun's general success internationally, with an increase of 54% in profits, putting the company's profits at \$126 million for the second quarter of the current financial

year.

During the final quarter of last year, Sun won a number of large contracts in the region, including a natural gas company in Qatar, a communications company in Lebanon, Abu Dhabi's Investment Body, the Municipality of Abu Dhabi, the Shlumberger Corporation, and technical colleges in Dubai.

Sun had also strengthened its position in the growing Internet market by the introduction of Java.

Also, Sun has recently announced the first workstation system to utilize the UltraSpark processor, which should put Sun in a leading position, in terms of defining the standards of performance for desktop computer systems in the region.

For more information, contact Sun at telephone 971 4 366333 or fax 971 4 366526.

For American monk, fighting drugs begins with Buddhism

By Keith B. Richburg
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

SARABURI, Thailand—When Gordon Baltimore was nine years old, he watched a man overdose in a public toilet. It was a pretty ugly scene, the man swaying in the doorway of a bathroom stall, vomiting and incontinent, until he finally collapsed and died.

For young Gordon, growing up in Harlem in the 1950s and '60s, it became a seminal experience, one that forever turned him away from drugs. Now, 35 years and several continents later, Gordon Baltimore's life journey has brought him to a remote, serene village in Thailand's Saraburi province, nestled on a mountainside and surrounded by ancient images of the Buddha carved from rock.

Dressed in a monk's brown robe and with his head shaved, he is second in command at Wat Thamkrabok, one of Thailand's better-known drug treatment centers, which is controversial both for its methods and its newer role as a refuge for Hmong people from Laos.

He is known here as Phra Gordon, or Brother Gordon, a Buddhist holy man, Thailand's black monk. Sometimes, he said, he is just referred to as "the black guy," the street dude from Harlem who walks taller than most, and whose rapid-fire speech now mixes a few Thai phrases with American street slang.

Much happened to Gordon Baltimore between that scene at the toilet and his arrival in Thailand 18 years ago. At 16, he joined the merchant marine and hoped a ship.

At a stopover in Penang, on Malaysia's west coast, he met Boh Denard, the infamous French mercenary who was recruiting commandos. "Being an American black, they think you know everything about guns," Baltimore recalled, though he says he didn't.

He boasts of becoming a soldier of fortune and participating in some of the world's most notorious conflicts. But he said a close encounter with death in Namibia frightened him.

So he took a long trip, winding up in Thailand. After a two-hour bus ride out of Bangkok, he wandered onto the grounds

of Wat Thamkrabok. "I'm not crazy," he said, recalling that day. "But I heard someone say 'You've come here at last.' After the war and all that, I got a feeling of peace."

He has studied Buddhism and relinquished most trappings of modernity, including riding in motorized vehicles—and, he said, "No wine, women or sex."

"There's a difference between training a person to take a life, and training a person to give back a life," Gordon said. After Harlem and the life of a mercenary, he said, "This is the last stop for me."

Gordon's domain is Wat Thamkrabok, meaning monastery of the opium pipe. It sprawls over 784 acres and treats an average 500 drug addicts each month—people trying to break the grip of heroin, opium, cocaine and crack, amphetamines, sleeping pills, even alcohol and cigarettes.

Most are from Thailand, but about a third come from abroad, as far away as Europe and the United States.

The treatment lasts anywhere from 30 days to six months—and Gordon says its success comes from his stern edict for each new patient: "Once he starts his program, the only way he can quit is when he is dead."

An official of the Thai government's Office of Narcotics Control Board expressed doubt about Wat Thamkrabok's claim of success.

Suphachan Chutidamrong said she believes that it is more of a short-term detoxification center than a long-term rehabilitation program, and that most patients who undergo detoxification typically relapse into narcotics abuse.

"They use some kind of herbs to get the narcotics out of their bodies," she said. "But detoxification alone is not successful in the long term."

The success rate is "not 70 percent" as Wat Thamkrabok claims, she said.

The board, which keeps records of all accredited non-governmental drug-treatment programs in Thailand, initially provided some funding for Wat Thamkrabok but stopped after the monastery became self-sufficient.

Wat Thamkrabok's controversial method is what Gordon calls a mix that is 80 percent spiritual and 20 percent medicinal.

He says the guiding principles of the center are that every disease can be cured through prayer, that every human being has in his body chemicals he can call on to fight disease and that belief in a higher being is an integral part of treatment.

For the medicinal part, the patient is given a foul concoction of herbs. One shot-glass full on the first days makes the patient vomit uncontrollably and lose all strength—including the strength to try to run away. The herb mix continues for five days.

During this time, the patient is hypnotized to instill obedience and adherence to the program, which Gordon concedes amounts to brainwashing. With the patients in a weakened state, they go to sleep listening to tape recordings of repeated chants by the monks.

"For 30 days, minimum cure, the patient is nothing but a robot, and we push the button—when he eats, when he sleeps," Gordon said.

Once they are cured, the patients write down a vow to stay drug-free and then swallow the piece of paper. They are warned that the spirits will punish them if they break the vow.

Patients are given a telephone hot-line number and a coded name and are ordered to check in periodically by sending a photograph every 18 months and returning to Wat Thamkrabok every 30 months to prove they have remained drug-free. Gordon says most patients are eager to keep in touch, sometimes even placing ads under their code names in Bangkok newspapers when they are too busy or otherwise unable to be in personal contact.

"We maintain our own security," Gordon said. "Police force, judge, jury. The method of punishment is the bamboo stick."

There are 300 monks at Wat Thamkrabok, under the leadership of the 76-year-old abbot, Phra Chammoon Parachand, and they are subject to the same rigid rules and discipline. Two monks are put in charge of 20 patients, and Gordon said, "If a patient isn't cured, the monk must explain why."

68th Oscar awards held 25 March Appollo 13 and Casino expected to win best picture

FOLLOWING ARE the nominations for the 68th Academy Award, Oscars, which will be held on 25 March.

Best picture nominations: *Appollo 13*, *Braveheart*, *The Postman*, and *Sense and Sensibility*.

Best actor nominations: Nicolas Cage, in *Leaving Las Vegas*, Richard Dreyfuss, in *Mr. Holland's Opus*, Anthony Hopkins, in *Nixon*, Sean Penn, in *Dead Man Walking*, and Massimo Troisi, in *The Postman*, Susan Sarandon, in *Dead Man Walking*, Elisabeth Shue, in *Leaving Las Vegas*, Sharon Stone, in *Casino*, Meryl Streep, in *The Bridges of Madison County*, and Emma Thompson, in *Sense and Sensibility* were those nominated for best actress.

Best supporting actor nominations: James Cromwell in *Babe*, Ed Harris in *Appollo 13*, Brad Pitt in *12 monkeys*, Tim Roth in *Rob Roy*, and Kevin Spacey in *The Usual Suspects*. While best supporting actress nominations go to Joan Allen in *Nixon*, Kathleen Quinlan in *Appollo 13*, Mira Sorvino in *Melvin Phillips*, Mary Winkler in *Georgia* and Kate Winslet in *Sense and Sensibility*.

Nominations for best director: Chris Noonan for *Babe*, Mel Gibson for *Braveheart*, Tim Robbins for *Dead Man Walking*, Mike Figgis for *Leaving Las Vegas* and Michael Radford for *The Postman*.



Sharon Stone, in *Casino* (right)

Anthony Hopkins, in *Nixon* (left)

INTERFACE BY ZEID NASSER

Home PC sales plummet

COULD THE PC revolution be over? Is the decrease in the growth rates of PC sales, internationally, a signal of the saturation of the market?

According to many business reports coming from the USA, Europe and South East Asia, it sure looks like that.

These symptoms can be felt in both the corporate and home PC markets, but more on the home PC front as consumers begin to refrain from purchasing PC units at the same rate. A prediction by Dataquest, the well-known market research and consulting firm, states that there will be slower growth in the US market for home personal computers this year. Dataquest expects the market to grow in 1996 by only eight percent. Following last Christmas' disappointing sales in the US, PC suppliers are already complaining.

In contrast, studies in the Middle East show an expected increase in PC sales for 1996, but the Middle Eastern market has not reached a state of maturity or saturation like the US market; so it's understandable that we've still got some time to go.

How does this slowdown affect us users? Well, it doesn't really. This is mainly bad news for computer manufacturers, vendors, distributors and resellers, who will have to accept the decline in PC unit sales.

Maybe something will make up for this, like increased sales of hardware peripherals, such as modems, data storage products and multimedia accessories.

In any case, sales of PCs will continue to increase in absolute figures. Let's hope that the decrease in the growth rate isn't used as a pretext to increase prices.

Internet costs in Jordan

As the end of the month is upon us, and Sprint's official launch of its Internet service in Jordan is scheduled for 27 March, it's worth considering the issue of the cost of the proposed Internet service and user reactions to initial rates available.

According to unofficial sources, Sprint may charge some JD 35 per every five hours of Internet use. This figure may not be correct. In fact, I personally expect Sprint to offer a rate better than that. Still, the rates will be more expensive than Internet access rates in other countries. However, considering the high costs incurred by Sprint themselves and the relatively small target market in Jordan, it may be understandable.

Home and single users may feel somewhat worried about the prospects of being charged too much, by their standards.

The arrangement by which they are charged by the hour may also cause discomfort to people who want to surf the 'Net' for several hours a day.

People who really need Internet access, to search for critical information or utilize services that are important to them, are the ones who will be willing to pay this sum.

Others, mainly in need of email services, but who would naturally like to surf the Internet if given a chance, may choose to stay with their less expensive BBS services; services like NETS and Access for the time being, because they offer an inexpensive means to send and receive e-mail internationally. Considering that over 80 percent of all Internet use is for email, it would seem reasonable to assume that users will choose the cheaper way to utilize email on the Internet, even if that means they won't be on-line.

So this is the question. Will Jordanian users be slow to adopt Internet on-line services, and stick to Bulletin Board Services for some time, which are experiencing phenomenal growth at the moment? It's not really clear yet, but there should be some sort of half-way solution by which BBS operators are offered Internet access, possibly through Sprint. That way, they can work together for our benefit. Well, anyway, it's an exciting time for Internet and on-line services enthusiasts in Jordan. Keep your eyes and ears open in the coming couple of weeks as we sail deeper into cyberspace.

Gover out ov

Bandan Al Hajj

Bandan Al Hajj is a... (text continues)

US chic

By Sophia Kishkovsky

By Sophia Kishkovsky... (text continues)

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